

Lesson Plan for the Minimalist Option

Overview: main features of this option

- Homework before Class: Two science videos
- In class: – video “A Sociology of Climate Change”
– comments and discussion

Homework to assign before Class

Before students get to the sociological analysis, it is important that they get a baseline understanding of the science.

Assign videos:

Szasz, “Introduction to the Climate Module”

<https://youtu.be/y32F2aEl4Rc>

Kiehl, “The Physical Dimensions of Climate Change”

<https://youtu.be/KFy0XSLHjIg>

Loik, “Ecological Consequences of Climate Change”

<https://youtu.be/X1taZTx7VLY>

[NB: If that’s too many, prioritize Szasz and Kiehl]

A reading-based alternative (should you not wish to assign videos)

For the physics:

Students read, on line: World Meteorological Organization, “The State of the Global Climate 2018,” <https://wmo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=855267a7dd394825aa8e9025e024f163>

and: U. S. Global Change Research Program, “Climate Science Special Report: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume I,” 2017, Chapter 2, “Physical Drivers of Climate Change.” PDF can be downloaded from: <https://science2017.globalchange.gov/>

For the ecology:

Nolan, *et al*, “Past and future global transformation of terrestrial ecosystems under climate change,” *Science* 31 Aug 2018: Vol. 361, Issue 6405, pp. 920-923.

In Class

Explain why do a climate module in this course:

- An Intro to Sociology course should not just teach an overview of the discipline but also demonstrate why Sociology matters;
- Sociology has, from its beginnings concerned itself with understanding the greatest problems of “modernity;”
- As students will discover in this segment of the course, climate change is, today, one of those greatest problems;
- Studying climate change is worth doing, on its own merits, exactly because it will impact everything about the rest of their lives, and it is interest to see how Sociological ideas can help deepen their understanding of various aspects of climate change.

Show video “A Sociology of Climate Change”

<https://youtu.be/tCA6taOMOGE>

Discussion [if there is time]

[Note: If you are looking for a way to organize the discussion, you might wish to show one or both of the videos “Suggestion for a final class discussion, parts 1 and 2.”]

https://youtu.be/QDb4_VzmxAI

https://youtu.be/LwQT2_ocvXs

Modifying the lesson plan to suit your situation

You should, of course, feel free to adjust the lesson plan to make it work in your specific circumstances.

For example, some professors know a lot about the physics of climate change; others less. The lesson plan does not assume that you will write your own lectures on climate science (homework before session 1) or on the sociological aspect of climate change (session 1). My assumption is that many of you will mostly depend in the videos we have made and uploaded to youtube. However, if you know the science and the sociology and want to write and deliver your own lectures instead of showing videos, feel free to do so.