



Seminar in Climate Policy: Solutions for a Changing Climate



Spring 2009

GEOG 8120: Seminar in Climatology
Thomas Mote and Marshall Shepherd
Geog – Geol Bldg. 215; Mondays, 2:30-5:00

Call Number: 04-443

“Few challenges facing America – and the world – are more urgent than combating climate change,” President Elect Barack Obama speaking at a Global Climate Summit hosted by the Governor of California (November 2008).

Such statements confirm that climate change science will remain at the forefront of the scientific and socio-political agenda for decades to come. The 2007 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report established the link between human activity and climate change. Even with such a degree of scientific consensus, key public policy questions loom, including:

1. What policy decisions can be made based on current science (physical and social)?
2. How do uncertainties in climate science understanding and methods affect policy?
3. What strategies are required to mitigate climate change effects on society?
4. How is sound climate policy developed and how will this process evolve in the future?

In this seminar, we will examine such questions and others through a stimulating and interactive course designed to (1) expose students to the most current literature and scholarly thinking on climate policy; (2) enable case study analysis of contemporary climate policy issues; and (3) develop a strong foundation for any graduate student with an interest in climate science, applied climatology, environmental justice, public policy, law, ecology, water resources, environmental sciences, an human-natural systems interactions.