

Subject Description Form

Subject Code	LSGI1BN02M
Subject Title	Climate Change and Society
Credit Value	3
Level	1
Exclusion	LSGI1B02M Climate Change and Society
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) To enhance students' knowledge of climate and historical climate change (ii) To enhance students' understanding of the dependence of life on the non-living environment (iii) To enable students to appreciate the difference between information sources from textbooks on the one hand, and scientific literature on the other (iv) To impart skills in basic sentence and paragraph construction in academic writing
Intended Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon completion of the subject, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Understand the historical development of processes which maintain the earth's climatic and ecological balance (b) Understand the interdependence between living and non-living parts of the earth (c) Recognise the dependence of social development and civilizations on the particular climatic context and conditions (d) Appreciate the fragility of the relationships between society and climate, and society's response to climate change (e) Have a better understanding of recent greenhouse-induced climate change and our response to it in the context of previous changes in global climate (f) Use logical concepts of premises, inference and conclusion, to construct meaningful arguments in academic writing
Subject Synopsis/ Indicative Syllabus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. World climates and climate change since prehistoric times 2. Extreme weather and climate change 3. Examples of European, American and Asian societies in climatic context 4. Climatic impacts on life and society 5. Theories and principles of greenhouse-induced climate change

	6. The climate of Hong Kong in context of regional and global climate, and in long term context including trends and variability of past climates 7. Climate change predictions for Hong Kong and its impacts on society																																																									
Teaching/Learning Methodology	Staff-student contact in lectures and tutorials. Lectures are mainly for information on the historical and current development of earth's climate and its historical impact on society. In tutorials, case studies will be introduced and students will be asked to prepare their own cases studies for further discussion and group presentation.																																																									
Assessment Methods in Alignment with Intended Learning Outcomes	<table border="1" data-bbox="532 680 1365 1524"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Specific assessment methods/tasks</th> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th rowspan="2">% weighting</th> <th colspan="6">Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>a</th> <th>b</th> <th>c</th> <th>d</th> <th>e</th> <th>f</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Mid-term Test</td> <td>20%</td> <td>20%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Final Test</td> <td>40%</td> <td>40%</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td>✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Written academic essay in 1,500 – 2,500 words, particular attention to writing of logical grammatical constructs and structured arguments</td> <td></td> <td>40%</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>✓</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td>100 %</td> <td colspan="6"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p data-bbox="532 1577 1365 1797"> Explanation of the appropriateness of the assessment methods in assessing the intended learning outcomes: The 40% essay writing enables students to have a thorough and in-depth understanding of the subject matter, and be trained to express ideas critically. This is also reinforced by mid-term and final tests on students' understanding of the essential knowledge. </p>							Specific assessment methods/tasks		% weighting	Intended subject learning outcomes to be assessed (Please tick as appropriate)						a	b	c	d	e	f	1. Mid-term Test	20%	20%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		2. Final Test	40%	40%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		3. Written academic essay in 1,500 – 2,500 words, particular attention to writing of logical grammatical constructs and structured arguments		40%						✓	Total		100 %						
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lecture 						26 Hrs.																																																			

Student Study Effort Expected	▪ Tutorial	13 Hrs.
	Other student study effort:	
	▪ Course Reading and Chapter (Book) Review	38 Hrs.
	▪	
	▪ Essay Writing	30 Hrs.
	Total student study effort	107 Hrs.
Reading List and References	<p>Burrough, W.J., 2007. Climate change: a multidisciplinary approach. 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press.</p> <p>Houghton, J., 2009. Global warming: the complete briefing. 4th Edition, Cambridge University press, UK., 283p.</p> <p>IPCC, 2014. Climate Change 2014: Working Group II: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2/ (20,000 words of reading)</p> <p>Lam CY (2006) On Climate Changes Brought About by Urban Living. Hong Kong Met. Soc. Bull. 16(1/2).</p> <p>Leung Y K, Wu M C, Yeung K K, Leung WM (2007) Temperature projections in Hong Kong based on IPCC Fourth Assessment Report. Hong Kong Met. Soc. Bull. 17.</p> <p>Lee, H.F., Zhang, D. 2012. A tale of two population crises in recent Chinese history. Climatic Change, DOI 10.1007/s10584-012-0490-9</p> <p>**Maslin, M. (2014) Global Warming: A Very Short Introduction' (3rd edn), Oxford, OUP: 2008, 176 pp.; ISBN 978-0-19-954824-8 (30,000 words of reading)</p>	

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