

Assignment: Evaluating Multiple Solutions to Global Climate Change

Context

The assignment on the ODC is designed to be a practical exercise in which students will research, discuss, and evaluate proposed solutions to climate change. Meeting the challenges of global climate change is a multidimensional, complex task. There is no single solution to climate change, but arrays of solutions are being advocated by a wide diversity of groups and interests. If people are going to intelligently and ethically meet this challenge, they will need to carefully think through proposed solutions.

Goal

The goal of this exercise is to provide students with practice in cooperative deliberations regarding solutions to climate change. To accomplish this goal, students will work in groups to create in depth Web pages on the ODC that describe, analyze, and evaluate various solutions to climate change.

Objectives

Students will:

- Conduct quality research, requiring a contribution of at least 5 references to your group's solutions page.
- Write a well articulated analysis, requiring each student to contribute text equivalent to a term paper for a 200-level course--approximately 1200 to 1500 words--and to edit the solutions page to ensure that the final document is well-written.
- Deliberate with other students to arrive at a thoughtful evaluation of the particular solution under consideration.

Grading (40 % of overall grade)

- **25 pts** for individual contribution to your assigned solutions page
 - This includes the writing you personally contribute to the solutions page, on-line group discussion on the topic, and resources that you contribute. *Each person* in the group must contribute significantly to the construction of the page to receive credit. It is *not* enough to work off-line and have one person upload the information. We will grade this project by tracing the history of each solutions page through which we can examine exactly what your contribution to the topic was. Your assigned moderator will track your progress throughout the rest of the semester and keep your group discussions from straying too far "off task".
 - This is a group project; it is not fair to the others in your group if you wait until the last week to contribute! We expect everyone to contribute solid material and discussion to their solutions page by November 4, 2008, although we realize the page will not be in its final form. You will earn a maximum of **8 points** for your contributions to that point. The remaining 17 points will be based on your individual contribution during the remainder of the project.
- **5 pts** for overall grade for your group's solutions page
 - The entire page should flow as a single document, and you should, as a group, come to an agreement on the page content. This does not mean that you all need to (or even will) agree, rather it means that your opinions need to be expressed in a cohesive, compelling way, resulting in a final set of recommendations associated with your group's solution.
- **5 pts** for reading and evaluating 5 of the 10 solutions pages
 - You should read all of the solutions pages developed during this course. You will evaluate 5 of the pages and e-mail your feedback about page content to the appropriate page moderator.
- **2 pts** for creating a contributors page and responding to a discussion question
 - The contributor and discussion pages allow you to use and explore the ODC prior to adding information to your group's solutions page. This provides you with practice and allows us to identify problems early in the process. In addition, the contributor page allows you to get to know other students in your Solutions group and in the class.
- **3 pts** for class attendance
 - Attendance is becoming spotty, and we feel that we must *encourage* you more strongly to attend the lectures. Therefore, we will begin taking attendance during class on October 7, 2008. Also, a number of people are leaving class early and disrupting the entire class. If you come to class, plan to stay the entire time or let an instructor know before class why you need to leave early.