

## HC395: Climate Change: Science and Society Critical Book Review

For Honors credit in this course, you are to read a book about some aspect of climate change and write a critical book review. The book review should be no more than 1500 words (about five pages). This may not seem like very much, but it can take you a long time to write such a review, especially if you do not choose your book carefully. These book reviews will be posted in the Online Deliberation Center and will be available for others to view.

While we are providing you with a list of suggested books, there are many, many books on this topic. You are free to choose any book you would like, although we must approve your book choice. We would like each student to review a different book. Therefore, you *must* get approval from one of the instructors *prior to* starting your review! Don't select your book too quickly; you may find it difficult to finish reading or write a review about a book that you really don't like.

A critical book review is not the same thing as a book report. While a book report is simply a summary about a book, a critical review contains information about the book's content while also evaluating the book's strengths and weaknesses. In fact, the summary of the book's content should be less than 1/3 of your total review. You will need to support your evaluation with citations from the book and/or from other sources. Make sure that you consider the *author's* intent for the book. If the author is writing about the Kyoto Protocol, you cannot criticize him or her for not including information on the Montreal Protocol, especially if they have explained their limited scope from the outset. Regardless of your opinion of the book, you should not attack the author directly. As Michael Kucher (website below) writes, "consider this sage advice from an unknown editor: 'write your most critical review as though it would appear the day after the reviewed author's death, without embarrassing you.'" You want to be thorough and fair in your review.

To get started, we recommend that you read several critical book reviews from a scholarly journal in the area of the book's focus (e.g., if it is a science book, take a look at reviews from a science journal). If you need help finding sample reviews, please contact Dr. Heinsch, and she will provide guidance. We will also provide sample critical reviews on the ODC in the near future. You are welcome to read other reviews about the book you have chosen, but be careful. Do not let other book reviews sway you. Read the book for yourself and make your own judgments.

Websites that may help you in writing a critical book reviews:

- How to Write Book Reviews for Michael Kucher's Classes at UWT, [http://courses.washington.edu/tande/book\\_reviews.htm](http://courses.washington.edu/tande/book_reviews.htm)
- University of Alberta Libraries, <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/guides/bookreview/index.cfm>
- Carleton College History Study Guides, <http://apps.carleton.edu/curricular/history/study/criticalbookreview/>

### Possible Books for Critical Review

#### Science

- What We Know About Climate Change by Kerry Emanuel
- Thin Ice by Mark Bowen
- Six Degrees by Mark Lynas
- Storm World: Hurricanes, Politics, and the Battle over Global Warming by Chris Mooney
- Dire Predictions: Understanding Global Warming by Michael Mann and Lee Kump
- Global Warming: Understanding the Forecast by David Archer

- The Weather Makers by Tim Flannery
- Field Notes from a Catastrophe by Elizabeth Kolbert
- The Two-Mile Time Machine by Richard Alley
- Global Warming: A Very Short Introduction by Mark Maslin
- Fixing Climate: What Past Climate Changes Reveal About the Current Threat--and How to Counter It by Wallace S. Broecker and Robert Kunzig

### **Society**

- The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change
- The Collapse of the Kyoto Protocol and the Struggle to Slow Global Warming by David G. Victor
- Climate Change: Debating America's Policy Options Warming by David G. Victor
- Break Through: From the Death of Environmentalism to the Politics of Possibility by Michael Shellenberger and Ten Nordhaus
- The Winds of Change by Eugene Linden
- The Ethics of Climate Change: Right and Wrong in a Warming World by James Garvey
- A New Climate for Theology: God, the World, and Global Warming by Sallie McFague
- A Moral Climate: The Ethics of Global Warming by Michael S. Northcott
- The Great Warming: Climate Change and the Rise and Fall of Civilizations by Brian Fagan

### **Solutions**

- Biodiesel: Growing a new Energy Economy, Second Edition by Greg Pahl and Bill McKibben
- Fight Global Warming Now: The Handbook for Taking Action in Your Community by Bill McKibben
- Ignition: What You Can Do to Fight Global Warming and Spark a Movement by Jonathan Isham, Sissel Waage, and Bill McKibben
- Climate Solutions: A Citizen's Guide by Peter Barnes and Bill McKibben
- Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition by Lester R. Brown
- Earth: The Sequel: The Race to Reinvent Energy and Stop Global Warming by Fred Krupp and Miriam Horn
- Power to Save the World: The Truth About Nuclear Energy (Hardcover) by Gwyneth Cravens

### **Other**

- Independent Summary for Policymakers by Fraser Institute
- Global Climate Change: Human and Natural Influences by S. Fred Singer
- Unstoppable Global Warming: Every 1,500 Years, Updated and Expanded Edition by S. Fred Singer and Dennis T. Avery
- Climate Confusion: How Global Warming Hysteria Leads to bad Science, Pandering Politicians and Misguided Policies that Hurt the Poor by Roy Spencer
- The Deniers: The World Renowned Scientists Who Stood Up Against Global Warming Hysteria, Political Persecution, and Fraud\*\*And those who are too fearful to do so by Lawrence Solomon
- Cool It: The Skeptical Environmentalist's Guide to Global Warming by Bjørn Lomborg
- The Politically Incorrect Guide to Global Warming (and Environmentalism) by Christopher C. Horner
- Meltdown: The Predictable Distortion of Global Warming by Scientists, Politicians, and the Media by Patrick J. Michaels
- Nature, Not Human Activity, Rules the Climate: Summary for Policymakers of the Report of the Nongovernmental International Panel on Climate Change edited by S. Fred Singer

