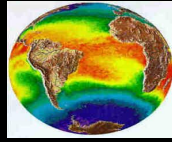




Climate Change



Science & Society

Education through Cooperative Deliberation: An Introduction to the ODC

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Context

The assignment on the ODC is designed to be a practical exercise in which students research, discuss, and evaluate proposed solutions to climate change. 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.

Goals

The 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.

- To help students become better informed about the array of possible solutions to global climate change.
- To provide an opportunity for students to practice cooperative deliberation.

Objectives

Students will:

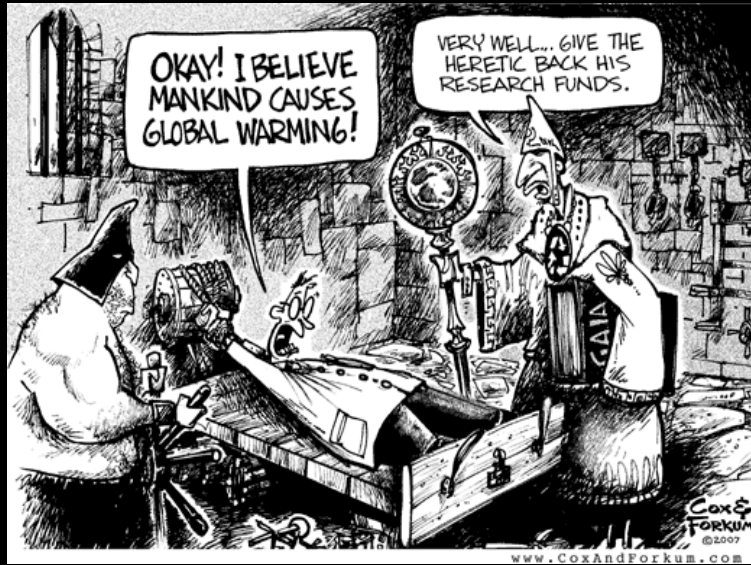
- Conduct quality research, requiring a contribution of at least 5 references to your group's Solutions page.
- Write a well articulated analysis, requiring each student to contribute in equivalent of a term paper for a 200-level course--approximately 1200 to 1500 words--and to edit the Solutions page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

One problem with the climate change debate

Adversarial debate has dominated cooperative deliberation in the issues arising from climate change.

Three questions to get us started

1. What is the difference between debate and deliberation?
2. How does one deliberate well?
3. How are we going to engage in deliberations over “solutions” to global climate change?





Our culture promotes adversarial debate. Since the goal of debate is to win, the competing sides use whatever techniques work. Distortions, insults, and half-truths are effective tools in public debate.

5 Types of Dialogue

Douglas Walton, *The New Dialectic*

- Persuasion dialogue
- Inquiry
- Deliberation
- Negotiation dialogue
- Eristic dialogue

Deliberation

“Deliberation is a type of dialogue where a group of concerned citizens get together to discuss and attempt to solve a practical problem...The [goal] is to come to agreement on a line of action or policy they can implement together.”

Deliberation involves critically assessing alternative courses of action to reach a goal



Debate involves persuading the public of the correctness of one's position by whatever means works.

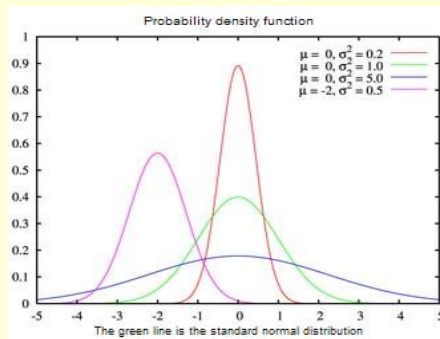
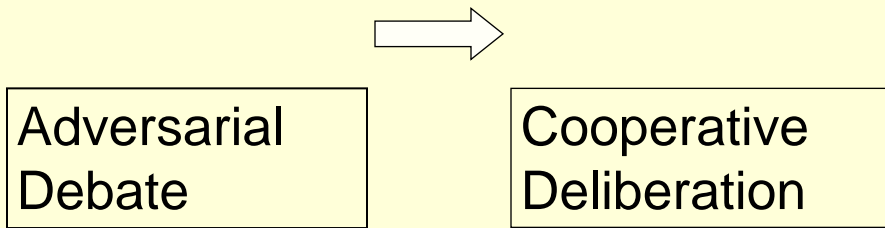
Debate & Deliberation

- The goal of a debate is to win. The opposing sides in the debate try to persuade a third party that their view is right, and their opponents' is wrong. *Each side enters the debate sure that their opinion is right.*
- The goal of a deliberation is to select the most appropriate course of action. Participants offer and examine alternative plans of action. *Participants enter the deliberation unsure about the most appropriate course of action.*

Deliberation and the Climate Change Debates

“The climate-change debate, like all policy debates is ultimately an argument over action. How do we respond to the risks posed by climate change? Does the climate-change issue call for action, and if so, what type of action, and how much effort – and money – shall we spend (18)?”

Dessler & Parson, *The Science and Politics of Global Climate Change*



Mixed Discourse

“Mixed discourse’ may be identified as... discourse in which there is more than one [type of dialogue taking place] in the same prolonged sequence of argumentation.”

Policy debates are mixed discourse; nonetheless, they are principally deliberations. Other types of discourse (inquiry, negotiation, critical discussion, eristic) support policy deliberations.

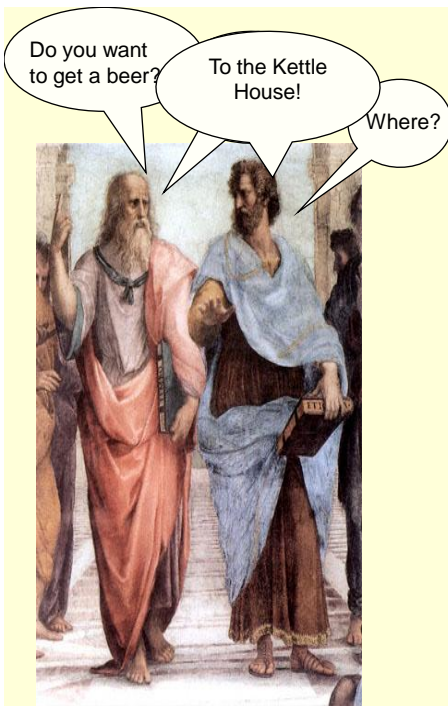
2. What is the relationship between practical reason, practical wisdom and deliberation? How can we deliberate well?

How can philosophy help?





Practical Wisdom



Practical Reasoning

- Major Premise: Goal, End, Good
- Minor Premise: Means
- Conclusion (Imperative for action):
Implement this means to achieve
this goal!

Goals: "Here we arrive at a desirability-characterization, which makes an end to the question 'What for?'"

Practical Reason

“Practical reason is the general human capacity for resolving, through reflection, the question of what one is to do.”

Practical reasoning is a “holistic enterprise, properly concerned not merely with identifying means to the realization of individual ends, but with the coordinated achievement of the totality of an agent’s ends.”

Practical wisdom (Phronesis)

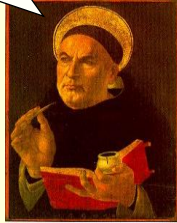
Prudence



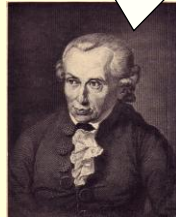
The ability to identify worthy ends and determine the appropriate means to realize those ends.

Prudence (Practical Wisdom)

“All virtue is necessarily prudent.”



“Prudence advises, morality commands.”



Andre Comte-Sponville: “morality is not sufficient for virtue; virtue also requires intelligence and lucidity.... It is imprudent to heed morality alone, and it is immoral to be imprudent.”

How does one deliberate well?

Develop the Excellences of a Deliberator

Honesty
Modesty
Charity
Integrity

Robert Talisse, *Democracy after Liberalism, Pragmatism and Deliberative Politics*

- Excellent deliberators are honest because they are willing to admit that their position might turn out to be faulty or need revision. They are willing to consider all the evidence and to give all proposals a fair appraisal before deciding on a policy.
- Modesty is required because even the best intentioned plans and policies can be ineffective or fail in practice. Modest deliberators understand that political proposals are not ultimate solutions. Hence they are able to admit error and seek correction.

- Charity means listening to the proposals of opponents. This means rejecting simplistic labels like “pro” and “con”, “left” and “right”. Excellent deliberators see these polarizing categories as obstacles to deliberation and are willing to give their political opponent’s position a fair hearing.
- The deliberator who “embodies the virtue of integrity understands that, however divided he and his fellow citizens otherwise may be, they nonetheless are joined in the common and continuing undertaking of self-government.” This requires commitment to the ideal of self-governance through the reasonable exchange of ideas.

How are we going to engage in deliberations over “solutions” to global climate change?

Practical Reasoning Model



Goals

- Is the goal adequately characterized and agreed upon?
- How should this goal be prioritized in relation to other goals?

GOAL (EVST 495, FALL 07)

To achieve a *fair* and *effective* global response to climate change for all living beings, current and future, as expediently as possible in order to minimize the environmental, social and economic damage from the projected effects of global warming (Calussen 1998; Shue 2005).

I. What constitutes an effective response?

(EVST 495, Spring 07)

An effective response is one that combines mitigation, adaptation, and technological transition procedures in a timely and flexible way.

There is a general consensus among scientists that the level of CO₂ in the atmosphere is on pace to exceed 450 ppm, a level that will result in unpredictable catastrophic events. Therefore, an effective global climate strategy must aim to limit CO₂ emissions to a level 450 ppm or less (Athanasίου and Baer, 2005). To stabilize at 550 ppm...

II. What constitutes a fair response?

“A fair response is one that weighs the comparative historical impact of a country's GHG emissions when distributing responsibilities for mitigation and adaptation actions. It also places more responsibility on nations that have the ability to take action. Fair response must take into account the needs of all who share the atmospheric commons, including non-human biota.”



Group Pages

- Explain why this particular alternative solution is a potential candidate for achieving the stated goals
- Describe what role it might play in achieving the goals
- Identify and analyze possible side effects
- Identifying and analyzing possible obstacles
- Discuss what needs to be done to maximize this alternative.
- Provide a careful evaluation of this solution for achieving the goals in light of possible side effects, practical obstacles and drivers.

Wind Power

1. Explanation
 - Why wind power?
 - What role will it play?
2. Possible side effects
3. Possible obstacles
4. Drivers
5. Evaluation and Recommendation

[Talk:Blowback Wind - Online Deliberation Center](#)