



Post-Degree Certificate in Climate Change Policy @ Yukon College, Fall 2017

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Concern about global climate change has never been greater. The Post-Degree Certificate in Climate Change Policy is aimed at a graduate-level audience seeking to enter or upgrade their expertise in the fields of climate change science, policy and analysis, advocacy, and environmental and socio-economic management. Emphasis will be given to the Northern context, including both western and indigenous world views. The certificate is also suitable for a broader audience, including working science and/or policy practitioners as well as professionals in other fields.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Understand the impact of climate change and make informed decisions about adapting to and minimizing its effects, while considering western and indigenous world views.
- Examine the causes and economics of climate change and explore possible responses and solutions.
- Analyze and effectively communicate the financial, environmental and socio-economic aspects of mitigation and adaptation efforts.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this 15 credit, online post-degree certificate is to expose students to climate change science and its links to policy and policy makers. The program offers a combination of theory and practice and will prepare students for careers in the field of climate change at the science-policy interface in a circumpolar, Yukon-focused context.

This program will emphasize the importance of understanding the scientific basis behind climate change and how these changes will impact natural and socio-economic systems. Students will gain a solid knowledge of policy design and analysis and will learn to develop effective responses to the challenges that come along with these changes.

The extent and complexity of the problems mean that there are no simple solutions. One way to respond to climate change issues is to develop policy. Policy development must include scenario-specific analysis, design, development, implementation and evaluation. Case studies focusing on the Yukon and, where applicable, indigenous government settings, and or indigenous communities, will inform policy development and decision making. The content of this program is inter-disciplinary and will underline the importance of communication, engagement and leadership. The program concludes with a practical component, which will explore the nature and variety of responses to the issue at a regional level, with a focus on adaptation, mitigation and policy response within a northern context.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the Post-Degree Certificate in Climate Change Policy, graduates will be able to:

- Understand and apply concepts, terms and tools used in climate change science and public policy
- Describe 'common but differentiated responsibility'¹ as a principle to assess climate change issues and provide policy solutions
- Demonstrate detailed knowledge of a number of case studies in climate change policy within the circumpolar north, with an emphasis on the Yukon, including Yukon indigenous world views and contemporary issues
- Outline various approaches to policy development, instruments and enforcement (in a northern setting) and use these to inform decision making in relevant workplaces
- Articulate the complexity of policy development and implementation, while ensuring the interplay of engagement, consultation, science, research, traditional knowledge and politics is considered appropriately
- Undertake risk assessments with respect to climate change in various environmental and socio-economic contexts
- Design policy that is effective and addresses symptoms as well as causes
- Effectively communicate climate change policy, including delivering technical content in an understandable manner for varied audiences, while reflecting the various stakeholders' interests
- Identify and assess the consequences and responses of climate change policy and provide solutions at various levels, including but not limited to federal, territorial and indigenous governments, municipalities and communities as well as private companies
- Integrate theoretical western and traditional knowledge with practical experience through ongoing dialog with professionals and other knowledge holders in class as well as in an experiential setting.

¹ 1997 Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

CCPC 500 – CLIMATE CHANGE AND POLICY LITERACY (3 CREDITS)

This is the foundation course for the Post-Degree Certificate in Climate Change Policy (CCPC). An overview of current scientific information about climate change, including adaptation and mitigation as well as the fundamentals of public policy development, implementation and evaluation will be delivered. Students will analyze climate change information and discuss its importance for making informed, un-biased recommendations for public policy initiatives.

The climate change modules will be based on the authoritative frameworks established by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). These modules will examine changes observed in the climate system and explain the related interactive natural processes, including natural and anthropogenic drivers. Because traditional knowledge and indigenous worldviews have value, they will be given full and fair consideration in developing a comprehensive perspective on climate change. In addition, the course explores the impacts of climate change on natural and human systems and discusses adaptation and mitigation concepts.

The policy modules will provide a solid understanding of the various fields, tools and stages of policy development, from analysis to evaluation, and include public policy analysis in an indigenous government setting. These modules also explore the relationship between law and public policy, as well as the role of legal institutions in setting public policy.

CCPC 501 - POLICY RESPONSES AND OPTIONS (3 CREDITS)

This course provides an in-depth analysis of development and implementation of climate change policy at international, national, and regional level. Emphasis will be given to the North, including governance, negotiation and consultation. Emerging interdisciplinary topics on adaptation and mitigation, such as, market-based and economy-wide options for reducing carbon in the atmosphere, or renewable energies will be explored.

The multitude of factors that influence policy making in the North will be investigated, while considering the influences of both local and global policy initiatives. Students will analyze current policies with respect to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Examples will range from local to global, and will include policies and treaties, for example the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Paris Agreement. Through case studies, students will learn how and why governments make decisions, and how they, along with non-governmental organizations and private sector companies, respond to policy initiatives. While studying the policy process, students will consider the role and contributions of various stakeholders. As well, Canada's approach and practice regarding consultation and engagement are discussed. In a Yukon context this specifically accounts for the Umbrella Final Agreement and First Nation Self-Government agreements, indigenous peoples that have not settled their land claims as well territorial devolution.

CCPC 502 - STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION (3 CREDITS)

This highly interactive course exposes students to the concepts, tools and processes of strategic planning from a climate change policy perspective. It will explore how to set strategic objectives and action plans in order to realize climate change adaptation and or mitigation goals especially in a Northern setting. This course teaches tools and tactics to formulate, plan, execute and measure the success of a strategy. It will provide students with a framework to be able to develop climate change policies that

- a. simultaneously address adaptation and mitigation measures, and
- b. are capable of protecting the environmental and social integrity of communities and regions, and fostering ecologically sustainable economic development.

The course will explore how to ensure that strategy development addresses real (verified, validated, most pressing) issues and leads toward effective solutions. Under a climate change policy umbrella, tools utilized include scenario building and mapping climate change effects to specific sectors, issues and geographies, benefit-cost analysis, risk assessment, indigenous people's engagement, consultation and consent, as well as public participation. Finally, this course will address limits to adaptation, maladaptation, climate economics and governance. Students will review case studies and apply critical thinking and problem solving skills.

CCPC 503 - LEADING SUSTAINABLE CHANGE - FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION (3 CREDITS)

Implemented successfully, climate change policy will have positive impacts for society and the environment, especially in northern, rural and small community settings. This course will highlight the importance of a framework for leading a group, organization, or community through the process of long-term sustainable change.

Policy development and implementation are the vehicle for governments to work with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and citizens to reduce the overall risks of climate change impacts. Students will analyze case studies showing various approaches to leadership, visioning, and communications as well as implementation of change with respect to social, environmental and climate issues. Additional topics addressed in this course include, but are not limited to, public engagement, education, outreach, presence of and collaboration between various stakeholders, networking and capacity building.

CCPC 504 – CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY FILED SCHOOL (10 DAYS, 3 CREDITS)

The Post-Degree Certificate in Climate Change Policy field school is a three-credit, ten-day practical experience, designed to demonstrate the effects of climate change on the northern physical and biological ecosystem. Students will explore examples of permafrost thaw, glacial retreat, shifting biomes, and discuss immediate policy issues with communities, governments and relevant organizations with public and private interests.

As such, there will be various field excursions to show students the possible spectrum of climate change effects on the environment as well as their impact on infrastructure, communities and traditional living. These site visits will benefit from professionals in the field being present and sharing their experiences. Additionally, students will visit communities and have face-to-face meetings with representatives from indigenous and territorial governments. Emphasis of these meetings will be on the relationships between local and regional environments and their natural resources and hazards through a climate change policy perspective. Community well-being and sense of place as well as other socio-economic factors will also be explored.

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Katrine Frese

Instructor/Coordinator Climate Change Policy, School of Liberal Arts

kfrese@yukoncollege.yk.ca

t. 867.456.8528