

Independent Study Scope and Plan
Climate Action Planning Study Group
Spring 2021
GPHY 492 [other rubrics XYZ]

Learning outcomes:

- **knowledge** of the process of climate action planning in higher educational settings
- **knowledge** of the range of types of climate action plans and approaches to generating them
- facility in conducting **literature reviews and reference management**
- **ability** to acquire, manage and interpret qualitative data through key informant interviews
- proficiency in **analyzing** the relationship between the contents, context, and outcomes of institutional climate action planning processes
- **ability** to participate in climate action planning processes as constructive collaborators

Student effort and credits:

Students will earn 3 credit hours for 6-8 hours of work per week.

Contact information:

Faculty instructors

Julia Haggerty, Julia.haggerty@montana.edu

Paul Lachapelle, Paul.Lachapelle@montana.edu

Administrative support

Earth Sciences, Meredith Knowles, Meredith.knowles@montana.edu

Environmental Studies/Liberal Studies: Teresa.Greenwood@montana.edu

Student expectations & Evaluation

As team members, students are expected to:

- Know and support overall project goals
- Conduct all research following prescribed protocol
- Attend all scheduled meetings
- Maintain data and shared files
- Write, proofread, revise all products
- Observe and meet deadlines
- Meet and collaborate as needed without instructor supervision
- Communicate professionally and respectfully with all team members, instructors, and external partners

Students will attend a weekly meeting to report progress and engage in project work. Additional one-on-one meetings will be conducted on an ad hoc basis.

At each weekly meeting prepared to give a thorough report on his/her work and will contribute to the following deliverables:

1. Annotated reference library/catalog of climate action plan documents from peer universities
2. Summary of peer-reviewed literature on campus/institutional climate action plans
3. Case studies of 3-4 climate action plan processes to include interviews with key stakeholders
4. Draft and final report summarizing campus climate action plans in terms of: how and why they were written, their contents and organization, if and how they generated policy, and lessons learned from key stakeholders
5. Presentations at Earth Sciences student research colloquium and Outreach & Executive Council annual meeting

Grading policy

- Final grades will be based on a combination of the following:
 - 75% quality of deliverables 4 and 5 in terms of:
 - Accuracy; thoroughness; analytical insight and clarity
 - Use of proper grammar, spelling and citations
 - 25% Individual engagement, preparedness, effectiveness and reliability as gauged in peer (via survey) and instructor evaluation
 - Students who fall behind on deliverables for more than two consecutive weeks may be asked to leave the project and withdraw from the course

The full MSU grade distribution (A, A-, B+, B, B-, etc.) will be used to assign final grades, with 90% of total possible points being the approximate cut-off for an A-, 80 for a B-, 70 for a C-, and 60 for a D-.