

UBPL 502/802
Final Project Instructions

Overview:

Local planning for climate change in cities of eastern Kansas and western Missouri lags behind many other areas of the country. While this may remain the case for the near future, as you will learn this semester, it is all but an inevitability that every city in the US (and to the extent resources allow globally) will take up planning for climate change in the coming years because of the sheer magnitude of the impacts all communities will face. Your main task for the class is to produce a professional-quality climate change planning document that helps get the climate planning ball rolling in a city in eastern Kansas or western Missouri of your choosing. [You may look beyond KS and MO, but we should communicate first about your choice.] In essence, you will function as a consultant hired to jumpstart a climate change planning process (compensation to come in the form of a strong course grade). Students in past years have found it helpful if they pick a city that already has a comprehensive plan and a hazard mitigation plan. My goal is that your document will be suitable for inclusion in a professional portfolio you can share with potential employers. The final paper is **due July 24th by 11:59 pm**.

Task:

Your task will be to provide a professional-quality document that will:

- 1) consolidate and summarize existing information and resources available to the community – and, importantly, your own ideas - for climate change planning, and
- 2) provide a targeted work plan for completing a full climate change plan.

Your final paper will consist of the following sections:

- 1) Introduction and background on your city (1-2 pages)
- 2) Summary of the relevance of natural hazards and climate change for your city (1-2 pages)
- 3) Climate change mitigation (however much space it takes)
- 4) Climate change adaptation (however much space it takes)
- 5) Appendices
 - a. Illustrated glossary (however much space it takes)
 - b. Annotated bibliography (however much space it takes)

For sections 2, 3 and 4, you will NOT be able to find all the information you will need; at least, certainly not in the timeframe of this class (you need to sleep, work, and live, too!). Instead, for these sections your first task is to consolidate and summarize the existing information (from national and regional reports and data sources, other plans in your city, and any other reputable source you can find). Your second task is to then identify additional tasks that need to be completed, and the types of data, maps, analysis, public input, and other information needed to complete the tasks thoroughly. An estimate of how much time you think it would take is not required, but will be a nice addition.

Risking stating the obvious:

- All sources (data, quotes, images, figures) MUST be cited (e.g. footnote, parenthetical notation)
- Include an attractive cover page, page numbers, and section headers, design elements, and/or color themes to engage the readers and guide them through the document
- Turn in everything on time!

Strongly recommended!!

- Pick a city with a population between 10,000 or so (large enough to find information) but less than 100,000 (small enough to not be overwhelmed by the information available)
- Always keep in mind that your audience consists of elected officials, planners and other city staff, and residents and business owners in the city of your choosing. Make your paper accessible, well-organized, easy to read, and attractive. Make it professional and something you will be proud to share with your current or future employer.
- Spend some time looking at other city's climate plans. I've posted more than a dozen on Blackboard and I have numerous others that I am happy to share. How other cities have organized and presented their plans can be a good source of information and inspiration. I've also posted examples of student's projects from previous years.

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Timeline:

Week 1: June 29- July 5

Required Tasks:

- Look over the examples of final projects from previous years' students.
- Select city in eastern Kansas or western Missouri that you want to focus on for your project. Let Ward know by June 30th. (If you want help picking a city or you want to pick a city farther from Lawrence, please contact Ward ASAP).
- Draft 1 - 2 page summary of your city that will provide the context for climate change planning. See final project assignment description on Blackboard for details. **Due to peer reviewer and Ward by midnight Sunday July 5th**. Peer reviewer will provide feedback **by midnight July 7th**.

Suggested Tasks:

Reading and illustrated glossary:

- Make notes of key concepts and principles for planning for climate change and hazards.
- Make notes of visuals (pictures, charts, tables, diagrams, etc.) that are valuable for communicating the key concepts and principles

Week 2: July 6-12

Required Tasks:

Reading and illustrated glossary:

- On your team's shared document add illustrated glossary for 10 key concepts from the first two modules by **July 10th at midnight**. Your team will turn in a collaborative illustrated glossary by **July 12th at midnight on Blackboard**. The glossary should have at least 20 concepts but not more than 50 concepts. Formatting should be uniform and attractive so that each team member can include the illustrated glossary as an appendix to her/his final paper. [It might be advantageous to come up with a team template before starting on the individual terms.]

Final Paper

- Draft 1-2 page section summarizing why it is important to plan for hazards and climate change. **Due to peer reviewer and Ward by midnight Sunday July 12th**. Peer reviewer will provide feedback **by midnight July 14th**.

Suggested Tasks:

Reading and illustrated glossary:

- Make notes of key concepts and principles for planning for hazards and disasters.
- Make notes of visuals (pictures, charts, tables, diagrams, etc.) that are valuable for communicating the key concepts and principles.

Final Paper

- Revise 1-2 page summary of your city that will provide the context for climate change planning based on feedback from Ward and peer reviewer.

Week 3: July 13-19

Required Tasks:

Final Paper

- Draft rough Greenhouse Gas Emissions estimate section, climate change mitigation Goals, Policies, and Implementation section, and section summarizing climate change mitigation work plan. See final project assignment description on Blackboard for details. **Due to peer reviewer and Ward by midnight Sunday July 19th**. Peer reviewer will provide feedback **by midnight July 22st**.

Suggested Tasks:

Reading and illustrated glossary:

- Make notes of key concepts and principles for climate change mitigation planning.

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- Make notes of visuals (pictures, charts, tables, diagrams, etc.) that are valuable for communicating the key concepts and principles

Week 4: July 20-24

Required Tasks:

Final Paper

- In addition to revising your earlier draft sections, you need to write a section addressing climate change adaptation Goals, Policies, and Implementation and summarizing a climate change adaptation work plan. This section will not go through the peer review process, although if you finish your draft early, Ward will be glad to look at it and get feedback to you.

Final Paper Due to Ward at 11:59 PM July 24th (online via Blackboard preferred; email ok)