

Summer Course
POSC 265gw

Environmental Challenges



Professor Jefferey Sellers
July 2 – August 7
Mondays and Wednesdays

Today, global climate change confronts humanity with one of our gravest crises. Earlier civilizations have collapsed under the weight of much lesser environmental challenges. The contemporary challenges from climate change for policy and politics loom at every scale, from the global to the personal. How can the world reach agreement on what to do? Can policymakers, business and the public in the United States alter the current course to achieve a sustainable economy? What changes would we as individuals have to make in our everyday lives to make sustainability possible?

This course employs a variety of interactive methods to introduce you to these essential questions, and at the same time to provide an overview of U.S. and international policymaking and politics. Classes will be built around films, group activities, and role-playing exercises. In the first weeks of the course, we will examine the history of efforts to meet environmental challenges, the dimensions of the climate challenge, and what difference personal changes in lifestyles can make in meeting it. The remainder of the semester will center around role-playing exercises designed to explore the politics of climate change policy in the U.S. Congress and on the international stage, and a final assignment to select and make the case for an innovation to address the climate challenge in one community.

This course will be offered online, with a combination of asynchronous and live sessions. For further information contact Jefferey Sellers at sellers@usc.edu.