

| Course Information | | | | |
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| Year | AY 2025-2026 | School | UNU-IAS | |
| Course Title | Climate Change Adaptation and Loss and Damage | | | |
| Instructor & Contact Information | Naoyuki Okano, Himangana Gupta, Kei Kurushima (IGES) okano@unu.edu , gupta@unu.edu , kurushima@iges.or.jp | | | |
| Term/Day/Period | AY 2026 Spring / 6 April – 13 July / | | | |
| Category | Elective Course | Eligible Year | 1 st year and above | Credits 2 |
| Classroom | Lecture room, 6th floor in the UNU building | Campus | UNU-HQ, Tokyo, Japan | |
| Main Language | English | | | |
| Class Modality Categories | On-Campus | | | |
| Course Code | New Course | | | |
| Level | Graduate-level | Types of lesson | Seminar | |

| Syllabus Information | |
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| Subtitle | Steps to Formulate and Implement Policies and Programmes |
| Course Description (Word limit: 200) | <p>As the impacts of climate change intensify, climate change adaptation has become an integral part of climate action and support. Adaptation planning and implementation involve many technical processes, and a proper understanding of these processes will enhance effective planning and implementation of adaptation measures and help avoid maladaptation. This course deals with the practical process of developing and implementing adaptation plans under the Paris Agreement framework, including pathways for accessing climate finance. In response to the growing importance of loss and damage as a possible third pillar alongside mitigation and adaptation under the Paris Agreement, this course also addresses emerging practices and future challenges in loss and damage-related policymaking. Lectures are delivered by climate adaptation practitioners and guest speakers from developing countries. The course incorporates numerous interactive elements, emphasizing hands-on activities and group discussions to learn how to formulate and implement adaptation plans.</p> <p>This course is one of the practicum courses of the Diploma Programme for Specialization on the Paris Agreement (SPA). This course is delivered by the UNU-IAS in a close partnership with the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES). IGES has a wealth of knowledge and experience in developing practical tools for adaptation and implementing adaptation-related projects in the Global South, through the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Information Platform (AP-PLAT) initiative.</p> |
| Objectives and Learning Goals (Bullet points) | <p>The objective of this course is to equip students with practical knowledge to lead the formulation and implementation of adaptation and loss and damage policies and programmes. The learning goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To understand the overall process of formulating and implementing adaptation plans under the Paris Agreement. ● To acquire the knowledge and skills to utilize scientific data on current and future climate risks. ● To understand the governance and process of selecting adaptation measures. ● Gain practical insights into the implementation of adaptation actions, including real-world approaches to reducing vulnerability in diverse contexts. ● Acquire practical skills through applied learning activities focused on developing adaptation plans and drafting climate finance proposals. ● To understand the purpose of and how to implement the monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) process. ● Overall, to become capable of constructing ambitious and effective adaptation plans. ● To understand the current international framework and policy process of loss and damage. |

| <p>Requirements</p> <p><i>This part should include the expected working hours.</i></p> | <p>This course is one of the practicum courses of the Diploma Programme for Specialization on the Paris Agreement (SPA). To engage effectively with the interactive lectures, it is recommended that students have a basic understanding of the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement framework on adaptation and loss and damage (equivalent to the content of the ‘Understanding the mechanism to implement the Paris Agreement to the UNFCCC (MIPA)’ course).</p> <p>The course requires students to actively participate in the class discussion. Some assignments, such as reading materials and preparation for group work, shall be conducted outside lecture hours. The expected weekly working hours are around five hours. Students are also strongly encouraged to follow the news regularly to stay up to date on relevant international developments.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <p>Course Outline</p> <p><i>Detailed information could be provided on Moodle such as the information of the lecturers, etc.</i></p> | <table border="1" data-bbox="440 415 1495 940"> <thead> <tr> <th>Lecture</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Time</th> <th>Outline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>20 Apr</td><td>11:20-13:00</td><td>Introduction</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>27 Apr</td><td>11:20-13:00</td><td>Climate risk assessment</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>11 May</td><td>11:20-13:00</td><td>Climate risk assessment</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>18 May</td><td>09:30-11:10</td><td>Adaptation Planning</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>18 May</td><td>11:20-13:00</td><td>Adaptation Planning</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>25 May</td><td>09:30-11:10</td><td>Group workshop1: Adaptation Planning</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>25 May</td><td>11:20-13:00</td><td>Implementing adaptation measures with access to finance</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>1 Jun</td><td>11:20-13:00</td><td>Group workshop 2: Implementing adaptation measures with access to finance</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>8 Jun</td><td>11:20-13:00</td><td>Guest talks 1 by adaptation practitioner</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>15 Jun</td><td>11:20-13:00</td><td>Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>22 Jun</td><td>11:20-13:00</td><td>Group workshop 3: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>29 Jun</td><td>09:30-11:10</td><td>Loss and damage: current practice</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>29 Jun</td><td>11:20-13:00</td><td>Guest talks 2 by loss and damage practitioner</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>6 Jul</td><td>11:20-13:00</td><td>Group work: Preparation for final presentation</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>13 Jul</td><td>11:20-13:00</td><td>Final presentation</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Classes take place from 11:20 to 13:00. When there are two classes on the same day, they will be from 9:30-11:10 and 11:20 to 13:00.</p> | Lecture | Date | Time | Outline | 1 | 20 Apr | 11:20-13:00 | Introduction | 2 | 27 Apr | 11:20-13:00 | Climate risk assessment | 3 | 11 May | 11:20-13:00 | Climate risk assessment | 4 | 18 May | 09:30-11:10 | Adaptation Planning | 5 | 18 May | 11:20-13:00 | Adaptation Planning | 6 | 25 May | 09:30-11:10 | Group workshop1: Adaptation Planning | 7 | 25 May | 11:20-13:00 | Implementing adaptation measures with access to finance | 8 | 1 Jun | 11:20-13:00 | Group workshop 2: Implementing adaptation measures with access to finance | 9 | 8 Jun | 11:20-13:00 | Guest talks 1 by adaptation practitioner | 10 | 15 Jun | 11:20-13:00 | Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning | 11 | 22 Jun | 11:20-13:00 | Group workshop 3: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning | 12 | 29 Jun | 09:30-11:10 | Loss and damage: current practice | 13 | 29 Jun | 11:20-13:00 | Guest talks 2 by loss and damage practitioner | 14 | 6 Jul | 11:20-13:00 | Group work: Preparation for final presentation | 15 | 13 Jul | 11:20-13:00 | Final presentation |
| Lecture | Date | Time | Outline | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 20 Apr | 11:20-13:00 | Introduction | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 27 Apr | 11:20-13:00 | Climate risk assessment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 11 May | 11:20-13:00 | Climate risk assessment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | 18 May | 09:30-11:10 | Adaptation Planning | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 18 May | 11:20-13:00 | Adaptation Planning | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | 25 May | 09:30-11:10 | Group workshop1: Adaptation Planning | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 25 May | 11:20-13:00 | Implementing adaptation measures with access to finance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | 1 Jun | 11:20-13:00 | Group workshop 2: Implementing adaptation measures with access to finance | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | 8 Jun | 11:20-13:00 | Guest talks 1 by adaptation practitioner | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | 15 Jun | 11:20-13:00 | Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | 22 Jun | 11:20-13:00 | Group workshop 3: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | 29 Jun | 09:30-11:10 | Loss and damage: current practice | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | 29 Jun | 11:20-13:00 | Guest talks 2 by loss and damage practitioner | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | 6 Jul | 11:20-13:00 | Group work: Preparation for final presentation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 15 | 13 Jul | 11:20-13:00 | Final presentation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Course Readings</p> | <p>As basic readings, please refer to the following materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LDC Expert Group. (2025, August). <i>The NAP Technical Guidelines: Updated technical guidelines for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans</i>. UNFCCC. https://napcentral.org/nap-guidelines Beauchamp, E., Leiter, T., Pringle, P., Brooks, N., Masud, S., & Guerdat, P. (2024). <i>Toolkit for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for National Adaptation Plan Processes</i>. NAP Global Network & Adaptation Committee. International Institute for Sustainable Development. https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/toolkit-monitoring-evaluation-learning-nap-processes/ <p>Also, please refer to the following materials, as necessary.</p> <p>For adaptation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNFCCC NAP Central (webpage): https://napcentral.org/ UNFCCC Adaptation Committee Publications: https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/resources/publications-adaptation-committee NAP Global Network (webpage): https://napglobalnetwork.org/ GCF Project Activity Cycle (webpage): https://www.greenclimate.fund/project-cycle <p>For loss and damage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warsaw International Mechanisms for Loss and Damage Executive Committee (WIM ExCom) Knowledge products (https://unfccc.int/wim-excom#Knowledge-products) <p>More detailed reading lists will be provided in due course through the online portal (Moodle).</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Reference</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Grading Policy</p> | <table border="1" data-bbox="472 1661 1495 1892"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rate</th> <th>%</th> <th>Evaluation Criteria</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Final group presentation</td> <td>30</td> <td>Understanding and application of the knowledge delivered in the course; Policy Relevance; Quality of presentation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Research paper</td> <td>50</td> <td>Understanding and application of the knowledge delivered in the course; Policy relevance; Quality of discussion and coherence; Proper styling and formatting</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Class Participation</td> <td>20</td> <td>Attendance and active participation</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Rate | % | Evaluation Criteria | Final group presentation | 30 | Understanding and application of the knowledge delivered in the course; Policy Relevance; Quality of presentation | Research paper | 50 | Understanding and application of the knowledge delivered in the course; Policy relevance; Quality of discussion and coherence; Proper styling and formatting | Class Participation | 20 | Attendance and active participation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rate | % | Evaluation Criteria | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Class Participation | 20 | Attendance and active participation | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Note / URL if any</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |