GEO 302C – Climate: Past, Present, Future (Spring 2012)

Location: JGB 2.216 Time: MWF 9:00-10:00 **Professor:** Tim Shanahan Offices: Shoch 3.126 (Shanahan) Office hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:30 (Shanahan) E-mail: <u>tshanahan@jsg.utexas.edu</u> Phone: 232-7051 (Shanahan)

Textbooks

Earth's Climate: Past and Future (2nd edition) W.F. Ruddiman, W.H. Freeman and Company, ©2008 ISBN-13: 978-0-7167-8490-6 ISBN-10: 0-7167-8490-4

BlackBoard Use

PowerPoint lectures and lab handouts are available on BlackBoard. It is expected that you have a computer with internet access or that you have access to these facilities.

Overview:

This is an introductory-level course intended for non-science majors. Lecture times are MWF 9-10am, room 2.216 in Geology Building, plus one 1.5-hour discussion section in room 2.308 Geology Building.

Course content:

Climate history of the Earth and the reasons behind Earth's climate change, including the physical concepts and climate processes that control heat and mass transfers in the atmosphere; the role of oceans; scales of climate change including tectonic-scale, orbital-scale, glacial and millennial-scale, historical and future climate change; global warming; human effects on climate; health impacts of climate change; ecosystem impacts

Course Credit:

Policy on Grades:

Final Grades: Your final letter grade will be based on your total score from exams and labs. Grades are assigned using a standard curve that reflects the accomplishment of the class as a whole. The curve mean represents a 'C'. However, if the mean score of each test is close to 75, the percentage-letter grade relationship will usually be: >90 A, 80-89 B, 70-79 C, 60-69 D, and < 60 F. Your attendance will affect your final grades.

Exam (75%): three midterms and one final exam will be given. All three midterm exams and the final exam must be taken. Your best two midterm scores **plus** the final exam score will be counted as 75% of your final grade - i.e., you may drop you one lowest midterm score, but not the final exam score. The Exam Schedule is on

the web. Exams are given only once. There are **NO** make-up exams, **NO** extra-credit in lectures and labs, and **NO** specially scheduled exams. Exceptions may be made for handicapped students, but they must request any special arrangements early in the semester. All exams are cumulative in their coverage. They will cover material from lectures and reading assignments. You will be asked questions about general concepts as well as specific points of information.

You must bring your UT ID cards to all exams. All necessary materials except pencils and erasers will be provided.

Lab Assignments (25%): Lab assignments must be turned in on time, at the beginning of your assigned lab section. Lab assignments turned in late will receive 0 credit. Your cumulative score from lab assignments will be counted as 25% of your final grade.

ATTENDANCE:

Your success in this course depends on your class and lab attendance. **"Be aware** of the fact that attendance will be taken and this information will be used in the computation of your final class grade. Excessive absences **will** work against you, while perfect attendance can help you to the next highest letter grade in borderline situations at the end of the semester."

Statute of Limitations: If you wish to appeal a grade received on an exam, or lab, your appeal must be made within 7 days from the time it is handed back. No appeals will be considered after that deadline.

The University Honor Code: "The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community."

Students are expected to read and to strictly adhere to the University's written policies on academic dishonesty. Cheating or plagiarism will result in a zero for the semester.

A note to students with disabilities: students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

118-Jan W 202-Introduction O2-Weather and climateNA Ch. 1, p. 1-16220-Jan F 202-Weather and climateCh. 1, p. 1-16323-Jan M03-Climate System/variability425-Jan W04-Atmosphere composition527-Jan F05-Energy Balance630-Jan M06-Heat TransportCh 1, p. 571-Feb W07-Atmospheric Circulation83-Feb F08-Hydrological Cycle96-Feb M09-Ocean circulation I108-Feb W10-Ocean circulation II1110-Feb F11-Air Sea InteractionsCh 16 p. 299-302; Ch 17 p. 321-3241213-Feb M12-CryosphereCh 2 p. 21; C10 p. 176-177115-Feb W13-BiosphereCh 2 p. 21; C10 p. 176-177115-Feb M13-BiosphereCh 2 p. 17-31221-Feb F13-BiosphereCh 2 p. 17-31422-Feb Wexam reviewAppendix 1: p. 360-361; Ch. 6.2, p. 100-101627-Feb M16-Radiocarbon dating7 29-Feb W729-Feb W17-High resolution recordsAppendix 1: p. 360-361; Ch. 5, p. 81-86; Part III, p. 116-117; Chapter 7 (p. 119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153)107-Mar W20-Ice SheetsChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II; p363-364No class11-Mar MSpring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205)No class11-Mar MSpring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205)No class11-Mar WSpring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205)No class <td< th=""><th>Class</th><th>day</th><th>Торіс</th><th>Text reading</th></td<>	Class	day	Торіс	Text reading
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1110-Feb F11-Air Sea InteractionsCh 16 p. 299-302; Ch 17 p. 321-3241213-Feb M12-CryosphereCh 2 p. 21; C10 p. 176-177115-Feb W13-BiosphereCh 3 p. 46-47; p. 53-58217-Feb FCarbon Cyclesame as above320-Feb Mexam reviewCh 2 p. 17-31422-Feb WexamCh 2 p. 17-31524-Feb F15-Isotopes100-101627-Feb M16-Radiocarbon dating-729-Feb W17-High resolution records-82-Mar F18-Tectonics and climate-95-Mar M19-Orbital climate-107-Mar W20-Ice SheetsChapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210- 228)119-Mar F21-Ice coresChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class No class16-Mar Mspring break 32-Pleistocene ice agesChapter 11 (p. 191-205) Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum contChapter 10 (p. 191-205) Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)	4.0	0 5 1 14		
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1213-Feb M12-CryosphereCh 2 p. 21; C10 p. 176-177115-Feb W13-BiosphereCh 3 p. 46-47; p. 53-58217-Feb FCarbon Cyclesame as above320-Feb Mexam reviewCh 2 p. 17-31422-Feb WexamCh 2 p. 17-31524-Feb F15-IsotopesAppendix I: p. 360-361; Ch. 6.2, p. 100-101627-Feb M16-Radiocarbon dating100-101729-Feb W17-High resolution recordsCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86; Part III, p. 116-117; Chapter 7 (p. 119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153) Chapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210- 228)107-Mar W20-Ice SheetsChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class11-Mar Mspring break 16-Mar FSpring break 16-Mar F118-Mar M22-Pleistocene ice agesChapter 11 (p. 191-205) Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)	11	10 Eab E	11 Air Soc Interactions	Ch 16 n 200 202; Ch 17 n 221 224
115-Feb W13-BiosphereCh 3 p. 46-47; p. 53-58217-Feb FCarbon Cyclesame as above320-Feb Mexam review422-Feb WexamCh 2 p. 17-31422-Feb F15-Isotopes100-101524-Feb F15-Isotopes100-101627-Feb M16-Radiocarbon dating17-High resolution records729-Feb W17-High resolution recordsCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86;82-Mar F18-Tectonics and climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86;95-Mar M19-Orbital climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86;107-Mar W20-Ice SheetsChapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210-228))119-Mar F21-Ice coresChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p. 363-364No class11-Mar Mspring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205)No class16-Mar Fspring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205)No class12-Nar W23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 20-224)323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 20-224)	11	то-гер г	11-All Sea Interactions	Cli 16 p. 299-502, Cli 17 p. 521-524
115-Feb W13-BiosphereCh 3 p. 46-47; p. 53-58217-Feb FCarbon Cyclesame as above320-Feb Mexam review422-Feb WexamCh 2 p. 17-31422-Feb F15-Isotopes100-101524-Feb F15-Isotopes100-101627-Feb M16-Radiocarbon dating17-High resolution records82-Mar F18-Tectonics and climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86;95-Mar M19-Orbital climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86;95-Mar M19-Orbital climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86;107-Mar W20-Ice SheetsChapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210-228))107-Mar W20-Ice SheetsChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p. 363-364No class11-Mar Mspring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205)No class14-Mar Wspring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205)No class16-Mar Fspring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205)1323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)	12	13-Feh M	12-Cryosnhere	Ch 2 n 21: C10 n 176-177
217-Feb FCarbon Cyclesame as above320-Feb Mexam reviewCh 2 p. 17-31422-Feb WexamCh 2 p. 17-31524-Feb F15-Isotopes100-101627-Feb M16-Radiocarbon dating100-101729-Feb W17-High resolution recordsF82-Mar F18-Tectonics and climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86; Part III, p. 116-117; Chapter 7 (p. 119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153)107-Mar W20-Ice Sheets228)119-Mar F21-Ice coresChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class14-Mar Wspring break spring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205) Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)	12	13-160 101	12-ci yospilere	$c_{11} \ge p_{12} \ge 1$, $c_{10} = p_{11} = 170^{-177}$
217-Feb FCarbon Cyclesame as above320-Feb Mexam reviewCh 2 p. 17-31422-Feb WexamCh 2 p. 17-31524-Feb F15-Isotopes100-101627-Feb M16-Radiocarbon dating100-101729-Feb W17-High resolution recordsF82-Mar F18-Tectonics and climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86; Part III, p. 116-117; Chapter 7 (p. 119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153)107-Mar W20-Ice Sheets228)119-Mar F21-Ice coresChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class14-Mar Wspring break spring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205) Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)	1	15-Feb W	13-Biosphere	Ch 3 p. 46-47: p. 53-58
320-Feb Mexam review422-Feb WexamCh 2 p. 17-31422-Feb W15-IsotopesCh 2 p. 17-31524-Feb F15-Isotopes100-101627-Feb M16-Radiocarbon dating100-101729-Feb W17-High resolution recordsCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86;82-Mar F18-Tectonics and climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86;95-Mar M19-Orbital climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86;107-Mar W20-Ice SheetsChapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210-228)119-Mar F21-Ice coresChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix119-Mar F21-Ice coresChapter 10 (p. 175-190); AppendixNo class11-Mar Mspring breakII: pa363-364No class16-Mar Fspring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205)1018-Mar M22-Pleistocene ice agesChapter 11 (p. 191-205)1118-Mar M23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)1323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)	_			
422-Feb WexamCh 2 p. 17-31524-Feb F15-IsotopesAppendix I: p. 360-361; Ch. 6.2, p. 100-101627-Feb M16-Radiocarbon dating 17-High resolution records100-101729-Feb W17-High resolution recordsCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86; Part III, p. 116-117; Chapter 7 (p. 119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153)95-Mar M19-Orbital climateCh 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86; Part III, p. 116-117; Chapter 7 (p. 119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153)107-Mar W20-Ice SheetsChapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210- 228)119-Mar F21-Ice coresChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class11-Mar Mspring break spring breakChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class16-Mar Fspring break spring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205) Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)221-Mar W23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)			•	same as above
524-Feb F15-lsotopesAppendix 1: p. 360-361; Ch. 6.2, p. 100-101627-Feb M16-Radiocarbon dating100-101729-Feb W17-High resolution records17-High resolution records82-Mar F18-Tectonics and climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86; Part III, p. 116-117; Chapter 7 (p. 119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153)03-Mar W20-lce SheetsChapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210- 228)107-Mar W20-lce CoresChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class11-Mar Mspring break spring breakChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class14-Mar Wspring break spring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205) Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)221-Mar W23-Last Glacial Maximum contChapter 11 (p. 191-205) Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)				
524-Feb F15-Isotopes100-101627-Feb M16-Radiocarbon dating729-Feb W17-High resolution records82-Mar F18-Tectonics and climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86;95-Mar M19-Orbital climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86;95-Mar M19-Orbital climate119-136) and Chapter 7 (p. 119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153)107-Mar W20-Ice SheetsChapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210- 228)119-Mar F21-Ice coresChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class11-Mar Mspring breakSpring breakNo class16-Mar Fspring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205)118-Mar M22-Pleistocene ice agesChapter 11 (p. 191-205)221-Mar W23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)	4	22-Feb W	exam	•
729-Feb W17-High resolution records82-Mar F18-Tectonics and climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86; Part III, p. 116-117; Chapter 7 (p. 119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153)07-Mar W20-lce SheetsChapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210- 228)107-Mar W20-lce CoresChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class11-Mar Mspring break spring breakChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class16-Mar Fspring break spring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205) Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)221-Mar W23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)	5	24-Feb F	15-Isotopes	
82-Mar F18-Tectonics and climateCh. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86; Part III, p. 116-117; Chapter 7 (p. 119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153) Chapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210- 228)107-Mar W20-Ice SheetsChapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210- 228) Chapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class11-Mar Mspring break spring breakI: p363-364No class14-Mar Wspring break spring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205) Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)221-Mar W23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)	6	27-Feb M	16-Radiocarbon dating	
95-Mar M19-Orbital climatePart III, p. 116-117; Chapter 7 (p. 119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153) Chapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210- 228)107-Mar W20-Ice SheetsChapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210- 228) Chapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364119-Mar F21-Ice coresChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class11-Mar Mspring break spring breakImage: Spring break spring breakNo class16-Mar Fspring break spring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205) Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)221-Mar W23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)	7	29-Feb W	17-High resolution records	
95-Mar M19-Orbital climate119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153) Chapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210- 228)107-Mar W20-Ice Sheets228) Chapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364119-Mar F21-Ice coresII: p363-364No class14-Mar Wspring break spring breakIf and the spring break Spring breakIf and the spring break Spring break118-Mar M22-Pleistocene ice agesChapter 11 (p. 191-205) Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)221-Mar W23-Last Glacial Maximum cont209-224)	8	2-Mar F	18-Tectonics and climate	Ch. 4, 64-67, 71-80, Ch. 5, p. 81-86;
107-Mar W20-Ice Sheets119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153) Chapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210- 228)119-Mar F21-Ice coresChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class11-Mar Mspring breakII: p363-364No class16-Mar Fspring breakChapter 11 (p. 191-205)118-Mar M22-Pleistocene ice agesChapter 11 (p. 191-205)221-Mar W23-Last Glacial Maximum contPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum cont	0	5-11-2 14	19-Orbital climato	Part III, p. 116-117; Chapter 7 (p.
107-Mar W20-Ice Sneets228)119-Mar F21-Ice coresChapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class11-Mar Mspring breakII: p363-364No class14-Mar Wspring breakII: p363-364No class16-Mar Fspring breakII: p363-364No class16-Mar Fspring breakII: p363-364118-Mar M22-Pleistocene ice agesChapter 11 (p. 191-205)221-Mar W23-Last Glacial MaximumPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum cont	9	S-IVIAL IVI	19-Ofbital cliffate	119-136) and Chapter 8 (137-153)
119-Mar F21-Ice cores228) Chapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix II: p363-364No class11-Mar Mspring breakII: p363-364No class14-Mar Wspring breakIII: p363-364No class16-Mar Fspring breakIII: p363-364118-Mar M22-Pleistocene ice agesChapter 11 (p. 191-205)Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)209-224)323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum cont	10	7 Mar \//	20 Ico Shoots	Chapter 9 (p. 163-174, Ch. 12 (p 210-
119-Mar F21-Ice coresII: p363-364No class11-Mar Mspring breakII: p363-364No class14-Mar Wspring breakII: p363-364No class14-Mar Wspring breakII: p363-364No class16-Mar Fspring breakII: p363-364118-Mar M22-Pleistocene ice agesChapter 11 (p. 191-205)221-Mar W23-Last Glacial MaximumPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum cont	10		20-ice sheets	228)
II: p363-364No class11-Mar MSpring breakNo class14-Mar WSpring breakNo class16-Mar FSpring break118-Mar M22-Pleistocene ice ages221-Mar W223-Last Glacial Maximum323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum cont	11	0 Mar E	21 Ico coros	Chapter 10 (p. 175-190); Appendix
No class14-Mar Wspring breakNo class16-Mar Fspring break118-Mar M22-Pleistocene ice agesChapter 11 (p. 191-205)221-Mar W23-Last Glacial MaximumPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum cont	11	9-IVIAL F	21-102 00125	II: p363-364
No class16-Mar Fspring break118-Mar M22-Pleistocene ice agesChapter 11 (p. 191-205)221-Mar W23-Last Glacial MaximumPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum cont	No class	11-Mar M		
1 18-Mar M 22-Pleistocene ice ages Chapter 11 (p. 191-205) 2 21-Mar W 23-Last Glacial Maximum Part IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224) 3 23-Mar F 23-Last Glacial Maximum cont	No class	14-Mar W	spring break	
221-Mar W23-Last Glacial MaximumPart IV, p. 205-206; Chapter 12 (p. 209-224)323-Mar F23-Last Glacial Maximum cont	No class	16-Mar F	spring break	
2 21-Mar W 23-Last Glacial Maximum 209-224) 3 23-Mar F 23-Last Glacial Maximum cont	1	18-Mar M	22-Pleistocene ice ages	Chapter 11 (p. 191-205)
209-224) 3 23-Mar F 23-Last Glacial Maximum cont	2	21-Mar W	23-Last Glacial Maximum	
	Z	ZT-INIGI AN		
4 26-Mar M 24-Deglaciation	3			
	4	26-Mar M	24-Deglaciation	

5	28-Mar W	25-Millennial variability	
6 7 8	30-Mar F 2-Apr M 4-Apr W	exam 2 review exam 26 - Historical climate change	Ch. 13 (p229-249) Chapter 14 (p. 251-261) Part V, p. 270-271; Chapter 16 (p.
9 10 11	6-Apr F 8-Apr M 11-Apr W	27 - Volcanoes and sunspots 28 - Instrumental climate 29 - Culture_climate	287-308) Chapter 16 (p. 303-306) Chapter 17 (p. 309-324)
12 13 14	13-Apr F 15-Apr M 18-Apr W	30 - Climate and health 31 - Greenhouse gases 32 - Greenhouse debate	Chapter 18 (p. 325-335) Chapter 18 (p. 325-335)
14 15 16 17	20-Apr F 22-Apr M 25-Apr W	33 - Mitigating future climate change exam 3 Review for final	Chapter 18 (p. 325-335) Chapter 18 (p. 325-335) last class
18 19 20 21 22	27-Apr F 29-Apr M 2-May W 4-May F 6-May		