Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Impact
INSTITUTE FOR A SUSTAINABLE EARTH
George Mason University®

NEW: Undergraduate Minor in Climate Resilience and Adaptation

In case you missed it, the new Undergraduate Climate Resilience and Adaptation Minor is launching this Fall 2025!

Please share widely with students and encourage them to enroll today.

Information on the CRA Minor:

The mounting threat of climate impacts has created a need for an innovative workforce with the expertise to build community resilience. The newly developed undergraduate minor in Climate Resilience and Adaptation (CRA) at George Mason University will provide students with the skills to develop and implement real-world solutions for communities navigating one of the most pressing issues today. This program bridges climate science, policy processes, and practical adaptation strategies – giving students actionable knowledge to translate research into effective practice.

Climate resilience and adaptation is an interdisciplinary effort; therefore, the CRA minor is geared towards students studying within a wide range of subjects. Most George Mason students will be able to obtain the CRA minor by taking ten additional credits beyond their primary degree program, including two core courses and a topic-relevant practical experience. By exploring the complexities of climate change through diverse perspectives, students will gain the expertise needed to contribute meaningfully to local and global climate resilience efforts.

The CRA Minor is co-hosted by the **Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic, and Earth Sciences** and **Department of Environmental Science and Policy** in George Mason University's College of Science. The CRA minor is designed for all academic paths and is open to all majors.

The CRA Minor was approved in Spring 2025 and is listed in the George Mason 2025-2026 Catalog (find the listing here.) For more information, visit the CRA Minor website or contact bsatmos@gmu.edu.

Still time to enroll in CRA Minor Core Courses Featured this Fall 2025!

CLIM 101 & 103

CLIM 101: Global Warming: Weather, Climate, and Society: 3 credits

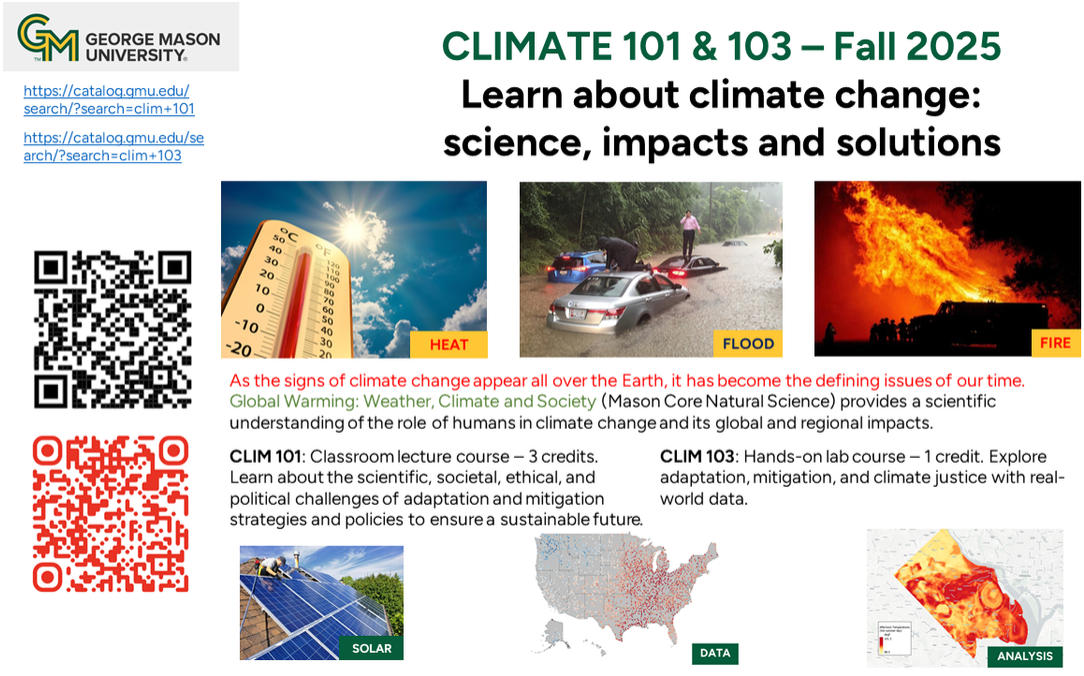
Survey of the scientific and societal issues associated with weather and climate variability and change. Examines physical phenomena observed in the Earth's weather and climate, providing sufficient scientific and technical background to enable students to critically examine arguments being discussed by policymakers and the public at large. Also reviews the current debate on climate change from a scientific point of view with a focus on those aspects that have the largest potential impact on global society. Offered by Atmospheric/Oceanic/Earth Sci. Limited to three attempts.

CLIM 103: Global Warming: Weather, Climate, and Society Laboratory: 1 credit

Laboratory course accompanying CLIM 101. This course uses hands-on exercises to teach students about the causes and impacts of climate change, as well as adaptation and mitigation. Students will learn how to find and interpret climate data, analyze data related to climate adaptation and mitigation, quantify inequities in incidence of climate hazards, and communicate the elements of the scientific inquiry process. Offered by Atmospheric/Oceanic/Earth Sci. Limited to three attempts.

EVPP 490 / EVPP 505 DL1: Climate Change Adaptation Planning & Assessment: 3 credits

Learn how to translate climate science to actionable policies and build the skills needed to develop, review, and contribute to comprehensive climate adaptation initiatives, with a special focus on Virginia communities. Students will be encouraged to apply course principles to their orresponding fields, supporting course work in academic programs and providing professional development in a variety of careers related to climate change. This course will be offered in a remote asynchronous format, with both individual and group learning exercises. Prerequisites are not required, but students should be familiar with the foundations of math, economics, public policy, and environmental science. Offered by Environmental Science and Policy.



EVPP 490/505 DL1: Climate Change Adaptation Planning and Assessment

Course Description

Learn how to translate climate science to actionable policies and build the skills needed to develop, review, and contribute to comprehensive climate adaptation initiatives, with a special focus on Virginia communities. This course is designed to foster professional opportunities for leadership in the public or private sector and support students in their course work through integration of climate change activities in a variety of fields and disciplines.

This course will be offered in a remote asynchronous format, with both individual and group learning exercises. Prerequisites are not required, but students should be familiar with the foundations of math, economics, public policy, and environmental science.

Who can take this course?

This course is open to **upper-level undergraduate, graduate students, and professionals as non-degree students** Students of **all degree programs** are welcome.

About

- **When**: Fall 2025
- **Where**: Online, asynchronous
- **Instructor**: Thomas D. Peterson
- **Contact**: tpeters8@gmu.edu
- **Credits**: 3
- **CRN**: 79136

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Register for Fall 2025 on Patriot Web:

https://patriotweb.gmu.edu/

Or learn how to register as a non-degree student:

https://www.gmu.edu/non-degree

The Institute for a Sustainable Earth (ISE) aims to connect members of the Mason community with others across the Mason community–and with other communities, policy-makers, businesses and organizations–so that, together, we can more effectively address the world's pressing sustainability and resilience challenges.

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