



GEOG 65H: Climate Change & the Media

Honors First Year Seminar

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T/Th 11a-12:15p

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Climate change has been called both the “greatest hoax” ever perpetuated and the “most urgent threat” facing the world. While scientists produce volume after volume of consensus documents on climate change, the popular debate rages on, fueled by print and TV news, blogs, movies, and fiction. Experts, pseudo-experts, and casual observers debate causes, consequences, and remedies in every form of media. In this class, we will explore the popular debate on climate change through an examination of its presentation in the media. We will cover the scientific basis of climate change, focusing on how the science is presented, distorted, and debated in the public sphere by alarmists, denialists, and everyone in between. Through reading and writing exercises, class viewings, discussions, and presentations, students will encounter many points of view, explore a variety of media sources, and develop informed perspectives on one of the defining issues of our time.

