

Harvard College Climate Cohort – Class of 2029 (HCCC 2029)

Harvard College Summer Session 2025

Session Schedule - *All sessions will take place online via Zoom and are subject to change*

- Cohort Learning Session: Every Tuesday at 3:00pm ET
 - Note: An additional Tuesday morning slot will be added contingent on sufficient student enrollment in the program.
- Guest Speaker Session: Every Thursday at 2:00pm ET

Cohort Leaders

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- Ella Niederhelman, ellaniederhelman@college.harvard.edu

Program Coordinators

- Lucy Duncan, lduncan@college.harvard.edu
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Office Hours: Times posted on Canvas or scheduled via Calendly appointment

DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The Harvard College Climate Cohort is a **free 10-week, peer-to-peer learning program** that prepares incoming Harvard College first-year students to engage with an interdisciplinary understanding of climate change and its implications. The **Not for Credit** course aims to equip students with the knowledge and resources necessary to engage in climate action during their time at Harvard and beyond.

Jointly supported by the [Salata Institute](#) and [Harvard College's First-Year Experience Office](#), students will spend the summer learning about climate change through a diverse set of disciplinary lenses, including the sciences, policy, health, and technology. The program also exposes students to climate-related opportunities across academics, co-curriculars, research, professional development, and volunteer work at Harvard University, preparing participants to engage with different climate pathways upon their arrival in the fall. The program culminates in a personal research project that will be presented to the Harvard community at an on-campus symposium in early September.

EXPECTATIONS

This course is designed to provide students with a foundational understanding of contemporary issues related to climate, with curriculum incorporating weekly readings, discussions, assignments, and guest speakers from the Harvard University community. Participants are required to attend all synchronous sessions, arriving on time and actively engaging with the curriculum and fellow participants. Participants are expected to arrive at sessions on time. Excused absences need to be electronically requested (by email). Regular attendance, attentiveness during sessions, participation, and completion of all required readings and assignments are essential for mastery of concepts and will be the most beneficial for your learning.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Upon enrollment in the program, students are assigned into one of two cohorts, which are lead by Cohort Leaders (CL), based on synchronous availability. CLs are the primary point of contact for any course-related questions and to provide support to students during the project development

and execution phase. CLs closely collaborate with the broader teaching team to create a supportive learning community.

There are ten modules (one optional and nine required) in the program. Each module will be released a week before the synchronous session, and you will be able to access the required readings, session slides, and weekly assignment details on Canvas.

To access Canvas, students will follow these steps:

1. Go to <https://canvas.harvard.edu>
2. Log in with your Harvard Key
3. Once logged in, you will be brought to your Canvas Dashboard. There you will see the Harvard College Climate Cohort site listed as a course you are enrolled in.
4. Click on the Harvard College Climate Cohort course from your Dashboard.

The program includes the following components:

1. Online Readings and Weekly Reflection Assignments
2. Weekly Sessions and Group Discussion
3. Weekly Guest Speakers
4. Office Hours
5. (Final) Project & Symposium Presentation

Readings and Reflection

No textbooks are required. You can access all course materials in each learning module or via the Library Reserve section in Canvas once the course opens. Students will be asked to write short reflections on the weekly content, including assigned readings, videos, guest speakers, and discussions. The reflections will be due every Sunday at 11:59 pm ET via Canvas.

Synchronous Sessions (Zoom) and Discussion

Attendance at synchronous sessions is mandatory. Due to the collaborative nature of the program, if you are not able to attend any sessions, please contact your cohort leader at least 12 hours before the session. All presentation sessions will be recorded on Zoom.

Final Project

The final project will provide students with an opportunity to apply what they have learned in the course. Students will be asked to develop a capstone project researching potential climate solutions or action that can be taken in their hometown. The project will be student-led and can be carried out in a context that is relevant to the student. The goal of the project is to broaden the impact of Harvard students beyond the Cambridge silo and to anchor their work on climate within a familiar environment. At the end of the program, you will present your project at the in-person Symposium on campus. You can either prepare a poster presentation or a short 15-min slide presentation.

Your final project will be a self-directed research or community-based project. You can choose from one of the following tracks:

- **Research:** Explore a research question related to climate, clean energy, or sustainability. Example projects include:
 - Researching the topic and writing a paper, literature review, or annotated bibliography.
 - Developing a research proposal to answer the research question. The proposal should include the following sections: a specific research question, the significance of the study, a hypothesis, potential methods, expected findings, and limitations of the research.
- **Community-Based:** Explore a climate, clean energy, or sustainability challenge in your community and develop a potential solution or plan that could be implemented. Example projects include:
 - A recycling challenge or tree planting event in your neighborhood.
 - A community garden that promotes local food production and reduces emissions associated with transportation.
- **Independent Project:** Students may speak to their cohort leader if there is interest in pursuing another type of project for the final Symposium.

Final Grades

No grades will be assigned for this program. The instruction team will provide feedback on assignments and during the optional office hours.

Item Due Dates	Date
Weekly Reflections	Every Sunday at 11:59 pm ET
Project Brainstorm	Sunday, July 6 th at 11:59 pm ET
Final Projects	Friday, August 15 th 11:59 pm ET Canvas
Symposium (In-person, location TBD)	Thursday, September 4 th at TBD

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

The curriculum schedule and associated guest speakers are subject to change throughout the program. Required readings and associated resources can be found on the Canvas page. Feedback on topics is welcome and encouraged.

- Week 1 (Optional): Climate Sciences and Energy
- Week 2: U.S. Environmental Law and Policy
- Week 3: Environmental and Energy Economics
- Week 4: Climate Justice
- Week 5: Climate Business + Finance
- Week 6: Decarbonization
- Week 7: Emerging Technologies
- Week 8: Adaptation and Resilience
- Week 9: Climate Health
- Week 10: Climate on Campus