

ATOC 7500: Climate Change, Energy, and Foreign Policy
Fall 2012: Tu/Th 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.



- Darin Toohey is ATOC Professor of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
- He recently served in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State
- This course is being offered for the first time
- Useful for anyone interested in the intersection of science and policy

What is ATOC 7500?

A discussion oriented class that examines how climate change and energy inform bi-lateral and multi-lateral foreign policy, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. The course will include topical readings from a variety of sources that influence the policy-making process, including seminal scientific publications, popular books, technical reports commissioned by international organizations, position papers from ‘think-tanks’, and op-ed pieces from the popular media. Class discussions will be structured to mimic various formats that a civil servant, foreign service officer, or diplomat might encounter, such as interagency meetings, panel discussions, bilateral negotiations, policy dialogues, and meetings of foreign ministers and leaders. Groups of students will prepare for discussions by preparing materials such as action memos, position papers, cables, briefing checklists, annotated agendas, building blocks, and declarations. Classes will alternate between informal discussions and mock ‘dialogues’, where different groups represent different countries, taking the likely policy positions of those countries.

Topics of interest

- New and renewable energy
- Climate adaptation
- China’s energy rise
- ‘Clean tech’
- Climate intervention
- Green growth
- Fossil fuel subsidies
- Low-carbon model towns
- Smart cities