Seminar on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
NRE 501.158

September 6 – October 18, 2017  |  Wednesday, 5-6pm  |  2024 Dana
1 credit  (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading)

INSTRUCTORS
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BACKGROUND
The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is the primary vehicle for international negotiations addressing anthropogenic climate change. Once a year, the 194 parties to the framework attend a meeting known as the Conference of Parties (COP). Since 2009, when COP 15 was held in Copenhagen, University of Michigan students and faculty have attended as observer delegates. In November of this year, ten delegates from UM will be observing the negotiations at COP 23 in Bonn. This seminar will prepare those delegates and others interested in the UNFCCC.

OBJECTIVES
The COP can be viewed as an international discussion about climate change which has been in progress for over 25 years. Therefore, attending the COP for the first time can be like walking into the middle of a conversation. The purpose of this seminar is to provide an orientation to the central issues involved in the climate talks. We will explore the pillars of international climate change negotiations including climate science, mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, finance, accountability, and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The seminar also provides a forum for delegates to discuss how to make the most of this unique experience, including how to make a significant contribution at the COP and how to share their experience with a wider audience.

EVALUATION
Students will receive either a satisfactory or unsatisfactory grade depending on active participation during seminars and timely completion of readings and assignments, all of which are available on Canvas:  http://umich.instructure.com.

SCHEDULE
Sep 6  Introduction and logistics
Sep 13  Background, structure, and history of the UNFCCC
Sep 20  Climate change science and the COP
Sep 27  Mitigation, adaptation, and implementation
Oct 4   Climate Equity (Developing vs. developed countries)
Oct 11  Mock UN negotiation
Oct 18  Beyond the UNFCCC
Nov 6-17 COP 23 in Bonn