

# Social Engagement through Science and Ethics: Responding to Climate Change

LB 290A Section 003, Fall 2013

1-2:20 p.m.

Holmes Hall, room TBA

1 credit

Instructors: Drs. Maxine Davis (Chemistry), Barry DeCoster (HPS), Brian O'Shea (Physics)

**Note:** enrollment is by override only, with a maximum of 16 students.

Next semester, Lyman Briggs College will be offering a unique class to a small number of highly motivated students. We are offering a 1-credit "BRAID" seminar course designed to help you learn about the scientific and social issues relating to global climate change in an interdisciplinary setting, and in the process draw upon several disciplines: physics, chemistry, and the history, philosophy, and sociology of science.

This seminar will meet once a week, and we will address a variety of questions relating to climate change, including the following:

- What are the causes of global warming?
- Why do we think that it is due to the actions of human beings, and is there *really* a debate about the science of climate change?
- What are some of the predicted consequences of global warming on both the natural world and on society?
- What can be done (and what is being done!) to stop or reverse global warming, and are we morally obligated to do so?



Professional schools, graduate programs, and employers are increasingly demanding interdisciplinary skills and the ability to work in groups. This seminar will help you to acquire these skills – in particular, the ability to synthesize ideas and methods from different disciplines, and to apply it to an interesting and socially relevant topic. In addition, the class provides an opportunity to interact with your professors in a personal and informal atmosphere!

Grades are based primarily on participation: there are no exams, large papers, or laboratory experiments. Scholarships worth ~\$200 are available for students with demonstrated financial need, and will cover the tuition and fees associated with the course.

Interested? Any questions? Want an override? Send us an email at [decoste4@msu.edu](mailto:decoste4@msu.edu)!