

GEOGM1405: Assignment 2

Impacts Essay

Deadline for submission: 14:00 Thursday 22nd January 2015

Write a 2,000 to 2,500 word essay on any aspect related to the impacts of climate variability and climate change.

For the second assignment on this unit, the focus is on understanding the potential impacts of climate change. The assignment builds from the first assignment, in which you focused solely on the hazard component – i.e. by analysing the output of climate model experiments under increased carbon dioxide forcing. This time your task is to relate your understanding of the changing climate to other relevant factors that affect the future climate risks for a particular sector and/or region of interest. Examples include the impact of climate change on global food production, or the impact of climate change on a particular region or country such as India. You can also choose to narrow the focus and select a specific sector within a particular country. The choice is yours but you must clearly state the focus of your essay in the title and introduction.

The essay should cite the latest literature and provide a critical discussion of the relevant issues and uncertainties. Also be mindful of the spatial and temporal nature of the risks and relevant non-climatic information. You can discuss the physical science basis for the impact(s) of choice but make sure to also discuss the extent to which humans and/or ecosystems are impacted. The essay can include some information about ways in which the risks you identify are being addressed (i.e. solutions) but this should not be the primary focus of the essay. Figures or tables may be included where relevant. Organise your essay however you prefer – it can either be divided into sections or continuous prose. Please do not exceed the word count (which excludes references and figure/table captions).

Submissions to blackboard must be completed prior to the submission deadline.