

Massive Open Online Course: Climate Change, Risks and Challenges (#ClimateCourse)

The challenge of climate change

Climate change is one of the major challenges for the international community.

This challenge can only be addressed through the interaction between local, national and international initiatives and agreements. Especially after the productive COP 21 in Paris at the end of 2015, it is now about taking concrete steps towards implementation.

However, there is no intuitive approach to the problem of climate change. Rather, it can only be grasped through scientific knowledge, which guides the transformation process in terms of action taken.

MOOC as an option

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are a special form of online course that can theoretically have an unlimited number of participants. MOOCs combine traditional forms of knowledge transfer such as videos, reading materials and problem solving or exercises with forums where teachers and learners can communicate with each other. Participation is free of charge and an Internet connection is all that is required to access the course.

Through the English MOOC on climate change and its consequences, we would like to give students of all disciplines as well as interested members of the public the opportunity to understand the basics of climate change and to see through its complexity. Therefore, the MOOC is interdisciplinary and includes scientific basics, models and scenarios, and also social issues such as dealing with climate impacts, adaptation measures and solution strategies. This comprehensive treatment of the topic allows participants to achieve a deeper understanding of the complex issue of climate change, thus enabling them to contribute actively to establishing a climate neutral society.

The partners

The Deutsche Klima-Konsortium e. V. – a scientific association comprising 24 prestigious German research organizations in climate research and climate impact research – together with WWF Germany and sponsored by the Robert Bosch Stiftung (foundation), has produced a MOOC on climate change and its consequences. The course, which has been online since November 2015, is very successful for an MOOC in German – held three times with a total of around 9,000 participants – and is available free of charge to all interested parties.

The next phase now is to build on this experience and attract an international audience for KlimaMOOC. Also due to the success of the German MOOC, we secured project funding from the Federal Foreign Office to produce an English MOOC, which we have been working on since September 2016. The Climate Course “Climate Change, Risks and Challenges” will be launched online in autumn 2017. It will be structured on the German MOOC but the relevant parts will be adapted to an international audience and to the post-Paris era.

The English course is also an opportunity for German universities to include the content in their international courses.

Climate Course

Renowned climate scientists teach the course. The lecturers are: Mojib Latif from GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel; Jochem Marotzke from the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology, Hamburg; Michael Schulz from the Center for Marine Environmental Sciences, University of Bremen; Hermann Lotze-Campen from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact

Research; and Anita Engels, spokeswoman for the climate research Cluster of Excellence at University Hamburg, among others. Helena Humphrey (Anchor at Deutsche Welle) contributes as a moderator.

Starting date and duration

Registration: September 1st 2017

Start: October 1st 2017, all-time enrolment possible

Contact:

Tina Harms

Digital Learning

WWF Germany

+49 (0) 30 311 777- 433

tina.harms@wwf.de