

SBU 102.S146

Spring 2025



Meeting Time: Tuesdays, 0800-0920
Location: Union 111-40
Meeting Pattern: 1 hour 20 minutes / week for 10 weeks

Instructor Name: Fred Walter
Instructor Email: frderick.walter@stonybrook.edu

COURSE TITLE:

Living in the Anthropocene

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Anthropocene is that geological era during which humans have left a lasting imprint on the Earth. Since the discovery of agriculture, we humans have been running a largely uncontrolled experiment that involves the future of humanity and perhaps the future inhabitability of Earth. In this class we shall examine the results of this on-going experiment, and discuss possible consequences for the future of humanity. We will consider a number of upsets to our equilibrium, including overpopulation and resource depletion, climate change, energy generation and pollution, the perils of living on a restless planet, and near a star, and their consequences.

COURSE GOALS

By participating in the SBU 102 course, students will:

- understand why the "Anthropocene" may be a distinct geological epoch.
- understand the nature of the solar-terrestrial relation.
- understand and be able to assess the extant scientific data related to climate change.
- understand the nature of exponential growth, and the consequences thereof.
- understand the forces that cause civilizations to thrive or collapse.
- be able to discuss intelligently various issues that are facing humanity in the next century.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- ***Seminar Engagement:*** Your engagement grade will reflect your attendance, participation in class, and contributions to discussions/activities. Students are expected to actively participate,

contribute their own ideas and ask questions during this seminar-style class. Students are expected to attend all class sessions.

- Students will write one paper on a topic relevant to the course

EVALUATION AND GRADING

The SBU 102 class is a 1-credit course, graded A-F.
See the web page for more information

The following grading scale applies for this course:
< 60 (F), 60-69 (D), 70-79 (C), 80-89 (B), 90-100 (A)

Web Page

For more detailed information, including the weekly schedule, see the course web page at <https://www.astro.sunysb.edu/fwalter/SBU102/>

Weekly Schedule: See web page

Week of	Topic	Assignments
Jan 27		
Feb 3		
Feb 10		
Feb 17		
Feb 24		
March 3		
March 10		
March 17- 21 Spring Break: No Class in Session		
March 24		
March 31		

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Americans with Disabilities Act: If you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact the Student Accessibility Support Center, SB Union Suite 107, (631) 632-6748, or at sasc@stonybrook.edu. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential.

Academic Integrity: Each student must pursue his or her academic goals honestly and be held personally accountable for all submitted work. Representing another person's work as your own is academic dishonesty. Faculty are required to report any suspected instances of academic dishonesty to the Academic Judiciary. For more comprehensive information on academic integrity, including categories of academic dishonesty, please refer to the academic judiciary website at [Academic Integrity](#)

Critical Incident Management: Stony Brook University expects students to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Faculty are required to report to the Office of University Community Standards any disruptive behavior that interrupts their ability to teach, compromises the safety of the learning environment, or inhibits students' ability to learn. Faculty in the HSC Schools and the School of Medicine are required to follow their school-specific procedures.

Course Evaluation: Each semester Stony Brook University asks students to provide feedback on their courses and instructors through an online course evaluation system. The course evaluation results are used by the individual faculty, department chairs and deans to help the faculty enhance their teaching skills and are used as part of the personnel decision for faculty promotion and tenure. No individually identifiable data is ever reported back to the university or instructor. Students who have completed previous evaluations can view all faculty ratings at: [Classie-Evals.StonyBrook](#)

Academic Success and Tutoring Center (ASTC): The ASTC will provide free in-person and virtual academic support services for all undergraduate students, including Course-based Tutoring, Skill-based Tutoring, and Peer Assisted Learning. Learn more about these services and additional campus resources at [ASTC Website](#).

BASIC NEEDS

If you are concerned about resources related to your basic needs, including access to nutritious food and stable housing, please contact the [Student Support Team](#). They will be able to listen to your story, connect you with possible resources, and provide stigma-free support.

In addition, the Student Support Team developed a robust list of various basic needs and available resource for students on their website:

https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/studentaffairs/studentssupport/Basic_Needs.php

IMPORTANT ACADEMIC DATES & DEADLINES

(Dates and deadlines subject to change. Please refer to [Spring 2025- Academic Calendar](#))

Friday, January 31	Major/Minor Changes End: Last day to submit major/minor changes effective Spring 2025 Semester. Waitlist: Last day to waitlist a class.
Friday, February 7 All changes must be processed by 4PM	Waitlist Process Ends Add/Drop/Swap Deadline: Last day to process enrollment changes (adds, swaps, credit changes, drops) via SOLAR.

	<p>Last day to drop or submit LOA/Term Withdrawal without "W" (withdrawal) on transcript. Full/Part time statuses will be locked in after this date.</p>
<p>Friday, March 14 Changes must be processed by 4PM</p>	<p>Drop Down: Last day to submit an approved adjustment form for selected PHY, AMS, MAT, and MAP courses. Drop Down Form</p>
<p>Monday, March 17- Sunday March 23</p>	<p>Spring Recess: No Classes in Session</p>
<p>Monday, March 31</p>	<p>Major/Minor Changes Begin: Submit major/minor changes effective Fall 2025 Semester.</p>
<p>Friday, April 4 All changes & course withdrawals must be processed by 4PM</p>	<p>G/P/NC Deadline: Last day students can select Grade/Pass/No Credit (GPNC). This is non-petitionable. Course Withdrawal Deadline: "W" (withdrawal) will be recorded on transcript Section Change/Credit Change Deadline Section/Credit change form</p>
<p>Friday, May 9</p>	<p>LOA/Term Withdrawal: Last day to take a leave of absence or withdraw from the University via SOLAR. Discuss with your advisor.</p>
<p>Monday, May 12</p>	<p>Reading Day</p>
<p>Tuesday, May 13- Wednesday, May 21</p>	<p>Final Exams Semester Ends: Official End of Term</p>