1. Course Description

Within the contemporary period, the primary problems associated with climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies have not been scientific in nature. Rather, the obstacles that hinder the implementation of such programmes relate to differentiated political and economic challenges faced by diverse actors within the global arena. This course seeks to examine concepts and mechanisms geared toward advancing UN SDGs in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), as it relates to climate change adaptation and within the context of the international political economy. For SIDS, climate change is an existential threat. This course will provide students with the opportunity to critically assess existing and potential strategies and mechanisms utilised on local, regional and international levels, to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of nations to climate change. The policy and legal frameworks that are geared toward building or strengthening the ability of SIDS to adapt to climate change will therefore be examined. Cross cutting socio-economic implications of climate change, inclusive of Health and Gender will also be assessed. However, in light of the course’s ultimate focus on the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within SIDS, the course will focus on concepts like the Circular Economy and on the Green and Blue Economy. The course therefore concludes with a focus on Climate and Resource Governance in order to focus students on issues and questions related to the achievement of the UN SDGs within SIDS, in the face of Climate Change and within the international political economy. This course will be assessed using quizzes, journal reflection entries and coursework essay assignments.
2. **Rationale**

The significant threat to human life and infrastructure posed by climate change impacts in SIDS – Particularly as they occur in the form of increasingly frequent and intense extreme weather events is a challenge that has the potential to undermine the long term development of Caribbean nations. Moreover, the profound adverse impact on key economic sectors (inclusive of the impacts of sea level rise on tourism and agriculture, as examples) as well as on vulnerable groups (such as refugees and low-income communities) is worthy of careful consideration. This course therefore aims to equip students with the knowledge required to build the resilience and adaptive capacity of their communities and countries to climate change within the context of sustainable development. Hence, the purpose of this course is to introduce students to the international political and economic challenges associated with the formulation and implementation of domestic, regional and global climate change policy. Reflective of the global challenges presented by climate change, this course will be offered as an elective of the MSc in Global Studies programme, offered at the Institute of International Relations.

3. **Course Aims**

The primary aims of the course are threefold. Firstly, it is to ensure that students have a thorough understanding of the importance of climate change resilience and mitigation in SIDS. Secondly, the course aims to equip students with the tools required to analyse and assess domestic, regional and international policy responses to climate change, and to formulate innovative and appropriate policy-based and programmatic responses geared toward climate change adaptation. Finally, the course seeks to place climate resilience and adaptation within the wider context of Climate and Resource Governance in order to examine issues that affect the ability of SIDS to achieve the UN SDGs.