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# Climate Change and Transition Studies

## An Interactive Online Learning Initiative

Designed for IvyMind Consulting, LLC

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[The Young Scholars' Online Learning Initiative](#)

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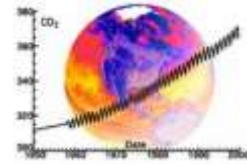
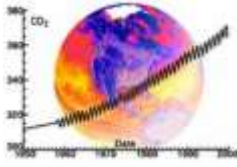
[Timothy C. Weiskel](#)

Research Director, *Cambridge Climate Research Associates*

**Climate Science for Human Survival**

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**Instructions:** In a separate document please respond to these questions. To start with, “copy-and-paste” each question into a document of your own, and then write a brief response to each question.

\* Then, save your file on your computer with the filename:

**“Responses to Questions for Session 5”**

\* Finally, upload this file to the [Dropbox](#) folder with your name on it.

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## Questions for Session 5

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After reviewing the lecture for [Session 5 \(8 August\)](#) and the [Slides for the session](#), please read the following questions and write short answers to them in response.

1) In our class **session 5** on 8 August, we continued the discussion from the previous week on [“Climate Change, Soils, Agriculture and the Global Food System.”](#) The lecture [slides for Week 5](#) included both older information references to the updated information on the topic in the 2005 [“Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Report”](#) of the United Nations as well as the latest report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPCC) in Switzerland on the morning of our class session this week, entitled: [“Climate Change and Land.”](#)

In your view, what can be said to be “prophetic” about these statements and reports? What could be said to be “enduring?”



2) Since our class meeting on the 8th, [climate scientists have been interviewed](#) by “news” programs around the world about agriculture because of the publication of IPCC report that morning. In fact, ecologists and agricultural scientists knowledgeable about soils have argued that human agriculture is not *inevitably* destructive of either biodiversity or of soil itself. In fact, they argue that -- if it is properly pursued -- agriculture could biodiversity, conserve water, build soil, produce growing amounts of increasingly nutritious food for humankind AND help solve the problem of our atmospheric carbon imbalance. In your opinion, why is this *not* happening on a large scale? How could this be changed?

3) Why is there a built-in tension between “global problems” like our changing climate and “international solutions?” In preserving institutions that were created essentially in the nineteenth century – like the “nation-state” or the “corporation” – are we in danger of destroying Earth’s ecosystem? If you feel “international solutions” can never be adequate to solve “global problems” what are some alternative means of addressing the global issues?

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