This course seeks to center small states, in particular, small island states, as a group of countries, with unique and interesting features, meriting academic scrutiny. Apart from their right to be treated as subjects worthy of study on their own terms, they also provide a laboratory of manageable proportions to explore challenges that face all of humanity. In short, they provide a microcosm of the challenges humanity faces but on a scale that makes relations and causality easier to establish. Moreover, their vulnerability to climate change places them in a unique position as test cases and early warning signals of the catastrophic dangers that climate change poses to humanity.