

SPI 593A
Cities and Climate Change

Instructor: Prof. Benjamin Bradlow

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Class: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9-10:30a

Office hours: Wednesdays, 3-5p, Wallace Hall 328

Sign up for office hours here:

<https://outlook.office.com/bookwithme/user/7c012da085eb4187b9a78b442caa091c%40princeton.edu/meetingtype/SVRwCe7HMUGxuT6WGxi68g2?anonymous>

Course description

Why are cities particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change? On whom do those effects fall? What role can cities play in reducing global warming? What social groups and institutions are most critical for governing the future of cities in a warming world? We discover how cities and urbanization have been understood in relationship to a warming world in public policy and the social sciences. This includes a focus on the causes and consequences of climate change on cities, including strategies for adaptation and mitigation. We analyze the governing institutions (global, national, and local), policies, movements, and financial architectures that shape how cities address climate change today. This course has a transnational scope, across the Global North and Global South.

Goals

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- 1) Identify the role of urban policy for both adapting to and mitigating climate change.
- 2) Put forward a position on policy debates for integrating concerns of inequality with urban climate policy.
- 3) Analyze how key actors, groups and institutional scales influence urban climate policy.

Assignments

There are three categories of assignments for this course:

1. 2 short reflection essays (500 words) on a week's readings. You can choose which weeks you write about.
2. An op-ed style essay (800 words) that will be due on September 29.
3. A final essay (1500 words) that will be due on October 27.

Course materials

All readings will be available in PDF form via Canvas or linked to a stable website page. There are no materials to buy.

Resources

This course addresses issues of ongoing contemporary concern. I highly encourage you to take advantage of the free Princeton access to the global business press, for which you can get your own account:

Financial Times: <https://library.princeton.edu/resource/45159>

Bloomberg: <https://library.princeton.edu/resource/45161>

Wall Street Journal: <https://libguides.princeton.edu/WSJ>

Week 1: Introduction

September 6

Wachsmuth, D., Cohen, D. & Angelo, H. 2016. "Expand the frontiers of urban sustainability." *Nature* 536, 391–393.

Vince, Gaia. 2022. "Introduction," "Migrant Homes," and "Anthropocene Habitats," In *Nomad Century: How Climate Migration Will Reshape Our World*. New York: Flatiron Books.

Week 2: Adaptation

September 11

Dodman, D., B. Hayward, M. Pelling, V. Castan Broto, W. Chow, E. Chu, R. Dawson, L. Khirfan, T. McPhearson, A. Prakash, Y. Zheng, and G. Ziervogel, 2022. "Cities, Settlements and Key Infrastructure." in *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Lösche, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, 907–1040.

September 13

Kuhl, Laura, M. Feisal Rahman, Samantha McCraine, Dunja Krause, Md Fahad Hossain, Aditya Vansh Bahadur, and Saleemul Huq. 2021. "Transformational Adaptation in the Context of Coastal Cities." *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* 46(1):449–79.

Goh, Kian. 2021. "Disparate Yet Connected Cities" in *Form and Flow: The Spatial Politics of Urban Resilience and Climate Justice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. 23-48.

Chu, Eric, and Linda Shi. 2023. 'Urban Climate Adaptation: Discontents and Alternative Politics', in Jeannie Sowers, Stacy D. VanDeveer, and Erika Weinthal (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Environmental Politics*.

Week 3: Mitigation

September 18

Solecki, W., Rosenzweig, C., Dhakal, S. *et al.* 2018. "City transformations in a 1.5 °C warmer world." *Nature Climate Change* 8, 177–181.

Elmqvist, T., Andersson, E., McPhearson, T. *et al.* 2021. "Urbanization in and for the Anthropocene." *npj Urban Sustainability* 1, 6

Bridge, G., Bouzarovski, S., Bradshaw, M., & Eyre, N. 2013. "Geographies of energy transition: Space, place and the low-carbon economy." *Energy Policy*. 53: 331-340.

September 20

Bhardwaj, Ankit, and Radhika Khosla. "Superimposition: How Indian city bureaucracies are responding to climate change." *Environment and Planning E: Nature and Space*. 4(3): 1139-1170.

Rice, J.L., Cohen, D.A., Long, J. and Jurjevich, J.R. 2020. "Contradictions of the Climate-Friendly City: New Perspectives on Eco-Gentrification and Housing Justice." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 44: 145-165.

Week 4: Movements

September 25 — NO CLASS

September 27

Guest lecturer: Aditya Kumar, Harvard University Graduate School of Design and Ndifuna Ukwazi

Aldana Cohen, Daniel. 2016. "The Rationed City: The Politics of Water, Housing, and Land Use in Drought-Parched São Paulo." *Public Culture* 28 (2 (79)): 261–289.

****midterm essay due September 29****

Week 5: Institutions

October 2

Ren, Xuefei. 2020. "What is Urban about Urban China and India" and "Airpocalypse in Beijing and Delhi" in *Governing the Urban in China and India: Land Grabs, Slum Clearance, and the War on Air Pollution*. Princeton University Press.

Millington, Nate, and Suraya Scheba. 2020. "Day Zero and The Infrastructures of Climate Change: Water Governance, Inequality, and Infrastructural Politics in Cape Town's Water Crisis." *International Journal of Urban & Regional Research*. 45(1): 116-132.

October 4

Araos, Malcolm, Lea Berrang-Ford, James D. Ford, Stephanie E. Austin, Robbert Biesbroek, and Alexandra Lesnikowski. 2016. "Climate change adaptation planning in large cities: A systematic global assessment." *Environmental Science & Policy* 66: 375-382.

Brandtner, Christof. 2022. "Civic Capacity and the Distributed Adoption of Urban Innovations." *American Journal of Sociology*. 128(3): 627-679.

Ajibade, Idowu. 2017. "Can a future city enhance urban resilience and sustainability? A political ecology analysis of Eko Atlantic city, Nigeria." *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction* 26: 85-92.

Week 6: Global economy and finance

October 9

Cox, Savannah, John Hogan, and Zac Taylor. 2023. "Risk-Rating and Networked Authority: A Climate Leviathan in Formation?" LPE (Law and Political Economy) Blog. <https://lpeproject.org/blog/risk-rating-and-networked-authority-a-climate-leviathan-in-formation/>

Haas, Astrid. 2023. "African cities and climate change: the real debate is who should pay to fix the problem." <https://theconversation.com/african-cities-and-climate-change-the-real-debate-is-who-should-pay-to-fix-the-problem-207634>

Meyer, Robinson. 2019. "How Climate Change Could Trigger The Next Global Financial Crisis." *The Atlantic*. August 1. <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/08/how-fed-could-fight-climate-change-adam-tooze/595084/>

October 11

David Satterthwaite, Diane Archer, Sarah Colenbrander, David Dodman, Jorgelina Hardoy, Diana Mitlin, Sheela Patel. "Building Resilience to Climate Change in Informal Settlements. *One Earth*. 2(2): 143-156.

Tooze, Adam. 2023. "Carbon Notes #3 Four trillion dollars per annum - The shock of reality from sustainable development thinking." *Chartbook*. <https://adamtooze.substack.com/p/chartbook-carbon-notes-3-four-trillion>

****Final assignment due October 27****