

This seminar focuses on the interrelations of equity, justice, and environmental crisis. Beginning with a discussion of the emergence of climate justice as a critical term in international negotiations, we will consider several dimensions of substantive and historical inequality and the framing of justice as an environmental right as they arise from these settings. Broadening the discussion to include a larger framework of environmental issues in relation to inequality, the course will draw on considerations of geographies of vulnerability, environments as inhabited risk, and ecological debt in relation to “natural disaster” or environmental crisis. Moving from an historical account of structural inequalities in socio-natural systems to contemporary environmental politics, we will then discuss the disjuncture in environmental movements and aspirations between the global south and north, and particularly, how justice and equity figure into environmentalism(s) on a global basis. Finally, we discuss emerging frameworks including Just Transition movements, ecological sovereignty and rights discourses, and flourishing and capabilities approaches.

The seminar is based on close reading of primary sources and recent scholarship, including relevant sections of the most recent IPCC assessment, as well as scholarly, activist, and policy literatures. Throughout the semester, we will critically evaluate how ideas of equity, justice, and crises are framed and deployed in different contexts and by different constituencies and how these differences create divergent social and political aspirations and imaginaries.

Office Hours

My office hours are **W 10:00 - 1200** by appointment. My office is in **Williams Hall 823**.

Academic Integrity

All students are expected to be familiar with the [Code of Academic Integrity](#). See tips for avoiding plagiarism on the [Library's website](#).

Support Resources for Students: Please read the [Canvas Student Resources page](#) for this course for more information on educational and support resources including:

Penn COVID FAQs

Support for Academic Skills

Wellness Resources

Disabilities and accommodations

Fairness in Course Administration policies

Assignments

To the extent possible, this class will operate in a seminar format, focusing on close readings of course material and in-depth discussion. Your grades will be based on three short response papers; a final presentation and paper; and participation, including in-class discussion and

1) **FINAL PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS.** *For undergraduates:* Your final paper should be 10-15 pages. It should be a case study based analysis or critique. More detailed guidelines will be posted on CANVAS; however, you will have wide latitude in your choice of topic and case material. *For graduate students:* your paper may be up to 20 pages and should be focused on a topic relevant to your research program. All topics must be approved by the end of 8th week. You will be asked to present a verbal synopsis of your topic/ case during the final two weeks of the Semester. This presentation should be no more than 15 minutes long with an additional 10 minutes of Q and A following each presentation (60%).

2) **RESPONSE PAPERS.** In addition to regular preparation for in-class discussion, you will be asked to submit three *response papers* on topics covered in class. The goal of these short papers is to provide you with more in depth basis for in class discussion and to allow you to share ideas with classmates. In each paper, you should identify a set of no more than three points for future discussion. These points may 1) identify the major issues raised by readings, 2) consider the points of contrast or tension sources (readings, seminar discussions, etc.), or 3) raise questions for future discussion based on your understanding of the work. For each point of discussion, you should provide no more than one paragraph of context that indicates why you find this point of interest for follow-up discussion. The format for response papers is open and quite informal. You may complete the assignment as a narrative, a numbered list, or an outline. Keep in mind that you should provide enough context to help the reader understand the importance of each discussion point. Your response paper should be no more than 2 pages in length. There is no minimum length. **RESPONSE PAPERS ARE DUE ON THE DATE OF THE IN-CLASS DISCUSSION FOR THAT TOPIC (30%).**

3) Finally, you will be evaluated on the basis of your contribution to class discussions. Each of you will be responsible for *participating in class discussions* on a day to day basis. Each week, I will post a set of discussion questions based on that week's readings. You should be prepared to address these questions in class (10%).

All assignments for this class should be submitted via CANVAS or as an email attachment. References should be cited using social science conventions, i.e. listing author's last name and date of publication in parentheses within the text, and the full citation for all referenced articles should appear at the end of your text.

Reading

There are no assigned books for this course. ***Readings including journal articles or book chapters will be posted on CANVAS as PDF files.*** Readings are assigned by week in the course outline, below. Any changes to the syllabus will be announced in class and posted on Chalk.

Course Outline

The following list includes the topics we expect to cover this semester and the readings most

relevant to their in-class discussion. Readings supplement but are not identical to class discussions. Most readings crosscut topics. Any additions, deletions, and other changes will be announced throughout the semester.

I. Introduction: Why is inequality an environmental problem?

1a. Framing Equity and Justice

1. Ciptet, David, et al. *Power in a Warming World : The New Global Politics of Climate Change and the Remaking of Environmental Inequality*, chapter 1.
2. Martin, Adrian; Global environmental in/justice, in practice. *The Geographical Journal*, 179, No. 2 (June 2013), pp. 98-104
3. Borras Jr., S.M. et al. (2022) Climate change and agrarian struggles: an Invitation to contribute to a JPS Forum, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 49:1, 1-28

1b. Climate Justice

1. Peter Newell (2022) Climate justice, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 49:5, 915-923.
2. Dolšák and Prakash, Three Faces of Climate Justice, *Annu. Rev. Political Sci.* 2022. 25:12.1–12.19.

II. Why History Matters: The Conditions of Ecological Poverty and Ecological Debt.

2a. The Conditions of Ecological Poverty.

1. Davis, Mike, *Late Victorian Holocausts* (2002), Verso, excerpts.

2b. Inequality as a Legacy

1. Farhana Sultana 2022, The unbearable heaviness of climate coloniality, *Political Geography*, in press.
2. Olúfemi O. Táíwò, Anna Saez de Tejada Cuenca, and Chun Hin Tsoi, Appendix B: Colonialism and Climate Vulnerability, in *Reconsidering Reparations*, Oxford, 2022.
3. Kasia Paprocki, *Threatening Dystopias*, Cornell, 2022, Chapter 1.

2b. Ecological Debt

1. Rikard Warlenius, Gregory Pierce, and Vasna Ramasar, 2015, Reversing the arrow of arrears: The concept of “ecological debt” and its value for environmental justice, *Global Environmental Change* 30:21-30.
2. Rikard Warlenius, 2016, Linking ecological debt and ecologically unequal exchange: stocks, flows, and unequal sink appropriation, *Journal of Political Ecology* 23: 328-491.
3. Jason Hickel, 2020, Quantifying national responsibility for climate breakdown: an equality-based attribution approach for carbon dioxide emissions in excess of the planetary boundary, *Lancet Planetary Health* 2020; 4: e399–404.

III. Why Structure Matters: Power, System, and Underdevelopment.

3 a . E c o l o g i c a l A s y m m e t r y .

1. J. Timmons Roberts and Bradley C. Parks, 2009, Ecologically Unequal Exchange, Ecological Debt, and Climate Justice, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 50:385-409.
2. Alf Hornborg. 17 Jun 2015, Conceptualizing Ecologically Unequal Exchange from: *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*, Routledge.

3b. Expulsion and Enclosure

1. Saskia Sassan, 2016, At the Systemic Edge: Expulsions, *European Review*, 24: 89–104.

3c. Debating Whose Anthropocene

1. Dipesh Chakrabarty, 2019, The Politics of Climate Change is more than the Politics of Capitalism, In *Climate Futures*, Zed.

2. Andres Malm and Rikard Warlenius, 2019, The Grand Theft of the Atmosphere, in *Climate Futures*, Zed.

IV. The 2022 IPCC Assessment Part I: Synthesis and Science.

1. IPCC, 2022: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2022: The Physical Science Basis*. Contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
2. IPCC, 2022: *Synthesis Report*. In: *Climate Change 2022*

V. The 2022 IPCC Assessment Part II: Vulnerability, Adaptation, and Mitigation

5a. Part I

1. *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Excerpts.

5b. Part II

1. *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Excerpts.
2. IPCC, 2022: Summary for Policymakers. In: *Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change*. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

VI. Climate Negotiations I: Rights Principles, and Politics

6a. Power and Negotiation.

1. Ciptet et al., chapters 3-5.

6b. Governance

1. Diego Andreucci and Christos Zografos, Between improvement and sacrifice: Othering and the (bio)political ecology of climate change, *Political Geography* 92 (2022).
2. David Ciptet and J. Timmons Roberts, Climate change and the transition to neoliberal environmental governance, *Global Environmental Change* 46 (2017) 148–156.
3. David Ciptet et al., The unequal geographies of climate finance: Climate injustice and dependency in the world system, *Political Geography* 99 (2022).

VII. Climate Negotiations II: Adaptation and Vulnerability as Experience.

7a. Adaptation

1. Jessica O'Reilly et al., Climate Change: Expanding Anthropological Possibilities, *Annu. Rev. Anthropol.* 2020. 49:13–29.
2. Diana Liverman. 17 Jun 2015, Reading Climate Change and Climate Governance as Political Ecologies from: *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*, Routledge.

7b. Vulnerability and Capacity.

1. Kimberly Thomas et al., Explaining differential vulnerability to climate change: A social science review, *WIREs Climate Change*. 2019;10:e565.
2. Nazin Nasir et al., 2019, Why Capacity Building Needs to do Justice to the Global South, in *Climate Futures*, Zed.
3. Sumetree Pahwa Gajjar et al., 2019, Entrenched Vulnerabilities, in *Climate Futures*, Zed.

7c. Living with vulnerability and Adaptation

1. Paprocki, Chapter 2.
2. Tim Forsyth and Constance L. McDermott, When climate justice goes wrong: Maladaptation and deep co-production in transformative environmental science and policy, *Political Geography* 98 (2022).
3. Siri H. Eriksena, Andrea J. Nightingalea, and Hallie Eakinc, Reframing adaptation,

VIII. Disaster –Vulnerability, Capacity, and Equity.

8a. Famine.

1. Phillip Slavin, Climate and famines: a historical reassessment, *WIREs Climate Change* 2016, 7:433–447.
2. Tanya Matthan (2022): Beyond bad weather: climates of uncertainty in rural India, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*

8b. Intersection And Co-Production

1. Paprocki Chapter 3 and conclusion.
2. Farhana Sultana, Climate change, COVID-19, and the co-production of injustices: a feminist reading of overlapping crises, *Social & Cultural Geography* 2021,22 (4): 447–460.

IX North/ South as Environmental Subject Positions.

9a. Subject Positions

1. Ramchandra Guha, Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique. *Environmental Ethics*, 11:71-83, 1989.
2. Joan Martinez-Alier, Leah Temper, Daniela Del Bene & Arnim Scheidel (2016) Is there a global environmental justice movement?, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 43:3, 731-7.
3. Esha Shah, Jeroen Vos, Gert Jan Veldwisch, Rutgerd Boelens & Bibiana Duarte-Abadía (2021) Environmental justice movements in globalising networks: a critical discussion on social resistance against large dams, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 48:5.
4. Carlos R. S. Milani et al., 2021, Is Climate Obstruction Different in the Global South? Observations and a Preliminary Research Agenda, *CSSN Position Paper* 2021:4, Brown Institute for Environment and Society.

9b. Varieties of Environmentalism in Delhi

1. Baviskar, Amita, 2020, *Uncivil City : Ecology, Equity and the Commons in Delhi*, Sage. Excerpts.

X. Environmental Justice I: Toxic Geographies

1. Ryan Holifield. 2015, Environmental Justice and Political Ecology from: *The Routledge Handbook of Political Ecology*, Routledge.
2. Grant M. Gutierrez, Dana E. Powell, and T. L. Pendergrast, The Double Force of Vulnerability: Ethnography and Environmental Justice, *Environment and Society: Advances in Research* 12 (2021): 66–86.
3. David Pellow, 2007. *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements for Environmental Justice*, MIT Press. Excerpts.

XI. Environmental Justice II: Expanding Justice.

1. Julian Agyeman et al., Trends and Directions in Environmental Justice, *Annu. Rev. Environ. Resour.* 2016. 41:321–40.
2. Erik Kojola & David N. Pellow (2021) New directions in environmental justice studies: examining the state and violence, *Environmental Politics*, 30:1-2, 100-118.
3. David Pellow, 2029, Linking Environmental Justice and Climate Justice, in *Climate Futures*, Zed.

XII. Justice based Frameworks: Just Transition, Resource Sovereignty, and Flourishing.

12a Just Transition

1. Raphael J Heffron, 2018, The Just Transition To a Low-Carbon Economy, *Renewable Energy Law and Policy Review*, 8: 39-41.
2. Peter Newell and Dustin Mulvaney, 2013, The political economy of the 'just transition', *The Geographical Journal*, 179:132-140.
3. Xinxin Wang and Kevin Lo, Just transition: A conceptual review, *Energy Research & Social Science* 82 (2021).

12b. Resource Sovereignty.

1. Philip McMichael (2014) Historicizing food sovereignty, *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 41:6, 933-9
2. Josse Francisco Orozco-Melendez and Jaime Paneque-Galvez, A role for grassroots innovation toward agroecological transitions in the Global South? Evidence from Mexico, *Ecological Economics* 201 (2022).
3. Bina Agarwal (2014) Food sovereignty, food security and democratic choice: critical contradictions, difficult conciliations, *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 41:6, 1247-1268.
4. Sam Grey and Raj Patel, Food sovereignty as decolonization, *Agric Hum Values* (2015) 32:431–444.

12c. Well Being and Flourishing

1. Siddhartha Krishnan, Soubadra Devy and Neha Mohanty, 2021, *Conservation Landscapes and Human Well-Being Sustainable Development in the Eastern Himalayas*, Routledge. Chapters 1,2,6,7.

12d. Reparations.

1. Olufemi O. Táíwò, 2022, *Reconsidering Reparations*. Oxford. Chapter 5.
2. Keston K. Perry, The new 'bond-age', climate crisis and the case for climate reparations, *Geoforum* 126 (2021) 361–371.
3. Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh, Pakistan's Call for Climate Reparations: An International Law Perspective, *Verfassungsblog* (Online), 08 September 2022.

XIV. Student Presentations