

**Course Title:** Climate Justice Practice

**Academic Year:** 2020

**Course Instructor:** Abhayraj Naik

**Course Description:**

This intensive seminar course elective course develops abilities, character, and a sense of direction towards the practice of climate justice. The idea of climate justice is fundamentally predicated on viewing climate change as more than just a scientific concept, and shifts the focus to the philosophical, political, cultural, and contextual dimensions of climate change as refracted through theories and considerations of justice. The course enables learners to develop a 'climate justice mindset' and to develop familiarity with some commonly-used approaches, methods, tools and resources to augment the practice of climate justice in varied sectoral/disciplinary/professional contexts. The seminar will be built around specific exercises and experiential components focused on professional practice that responds to some key problems of climate injustice in India. Workshop-style segments will focus on brainstorming, envisioning, strategising, project design, research methodology, team-work, prototyping, documentation, fund-raising, and communication for professional practice relating to climate change.

The initial course module focuses on theoretical approaches to climate justice. The second module locates the boundaries and contours of climate change in the Indian context. Next, an experiential hands-on learning module guides learners in developing familiarity with some commonly used methods, tools and resources to augment the practice of climate justice in varied sectoral/disciplinary/professional contexts. Where applicable, students will be encouraged to practice using such methods and resources in the specific context of their individual projects. The concluding module on transformative approaches for climate justice in India further develops and synthesises the theoretical and practical insights generated earlier in the course through a close engagement with the student projects developed during the course.

The pedagogic approach of this course adopts a mixture of lectures, individualised guidance, peer learning, and learning by doing. In-class and online discussions on specific topics are of high importance as is preparing for each class by familiarising oneself with the background materials. Each class typically involves an initial instructor-led mini-lecture followed by a number of interactive and/or hands-on mini-sessions devoted to analysing, developing and applying relevant theory and background knowledge to well-defined socio-environmental problems/ contexts in India. Images, videos, and multimedia resources are woven into the classes where relevant. Guest lecturers will be invited to take special sessions when possible.

Each student enrolled in the course will be guided and supported in developing an individual project (based on subject/topic interest) focused on climate justice practice. Final projects submitted can take a number of forms (to be decided with the approval of the course instructor), with possible options including: an analytical report, a research paper, a draft journal article, a public information website, a draft legislation, a policy brief, a client brief, a draft petition for a public interest litigation or specialised environmental litigation, a training manual or course curriculum, an environmental justice tool kit, etc. Students will be guided in conceptualising and developing their specific projects and (where possible) will be introduced to external experts suited to provide

specific guidance.

No pre-requisites for enrolment and participation in this course apart from an interest in learning about and practising climate justice. Students with a background familiarity in environmental sciences, environmental law and policy, environmental economics, environmental ethics, eco-philosophy, social work, sustainable development, documentary film-making, etc. will be encouraged to develop suitable projects that reinforce and build upon their prior learning.

### **Course Objectives:**

The course will help students to:

- know, understand, and learn more about climate justice and its relation to philosophical, political, scientific, policy, legal, educational, and cultural debates on climate change;
- apply the idea of climate justice to specific contexts and discrete domains;
- analyse and evaluate specific contexts in India from the perspective of climate justice;
- design, create and deploy specific responses to climate change in India;
- overall, develop abilities, cultivate character, and hone a sense of direction for future practice relating to climate justice in India.

### **Assessment and Evaluation Pattern:**

Students enrolled in the course will be assessed continuously on elements including attendance, preparation for class sessions, participation in class sessions, quality of required submissions, contributions to peer learning, and overall commitment and contribution to the course objectives. Individualised and group feedback in verbal and/or written form on all these assessed elements will be provided as often as possible.

In accordance with university regulations, the marking scheme for seminar courses shall consist of the following components:

Class participation	10 marks
Written submissions for project (proposal, draft, and final submission)	60 marks
Oral examination	30 marks
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 marks</b>

### **BASIC READING**

Navroz K. Dubash, *India in a Warming World: Integrating Climate Change and Development*, Oxford University Press (2019)

### **SESSION-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF COURSE SYLLABUS (10 Sessions)**

#### **Module 1: Theorising Climate Justice**

##### **Session 1 (4 hours): Introduction to Climate Justice Practice**

This introductory session explores the question of why it is useful to learn about and practice climate justice. The structure of the course, expectations, processes and timelines, etc. are also detailed.

##### **Background Required Resources:**

- 1) Greta Thunberg, Speech at COP24 (2018), video.

- 2) Mary Robinson, Climate Justice, Eat Forum (2016), video.
- 3) Decision of the UN Human Rights Committee in the case of New Zealand's deportation of Ioane Teitiota to Kiribati (2020).
- 4) Susannah Fisher, The emerging geographies of climate justice, *Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment* (2012).

### **Session 2: What is Climate Justice?**

This session examines certain influential theoretical accounts of climate justice and highlights important contexts, assumptions and tensions relating to practice emerging from the theorisations.

#### **Background Required Resources:**

- 1) David Schlosberg, Climate Justice and Capabilities: A Framework for Adaptation Policy, *Ethics and International Affairs* (2012).
- 2) Upendra Baxi, Towards a climate change justice theory, *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment* (2016).
- 3) Nicole Fabricant, Good Living for Whom? Bolivia's Climate Justice Movement and the Limitations of Indigenous Cosmovisions, *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies* (2013).

### **Session 3: Frameworks for Climate Justice**

This session identifies and examines the boundaries and terrain of climate justice within certain influential international frameworks.

#### **Background Required Resources:**

- 1) IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (2018) available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>
- 2) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992) available at: <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf>
- 3) Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC (2015) available at: [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf)
- 4) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015) available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>
- 5) Bali Principles of Climate Justice (2002) available at: <https://corpwatch.org/article/bali-principles-climate-justice>

## **Module 2: Contextualising the Space of Climate Justice in India**

### **Session 4: Climate Change Impacts**

This session examines the main current and predicted impacts of climate change in India with a focus on scientific frameworks, geographies, communities, and cultural practices.

#### **Background Required Resources:**

- 1) Mongabay India, Impacts of Climate Change News, collection of short articles, at: <https://india.mongabay.com/list/impacts-of-climate-change/>
- 2) Jemima Rohekar, What IPCC says about India, *Down to Earth* (2019), at: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/what-ipcc-says-about-india-47230>
- 3) J. Srinivasan, "Impact of Climate Change on India" and Nagraj Adve, "Impacts of Global Warming in India: Narratives from below", both in Navroz K. Dubash, *India in a Warming World: Integrating Climate Change and Development*, Oxford University Press (2019).

## **Session 5: Climate Change Law and Policy in India**

This unit examines the law and policy landscape for climate change in India.

### **Background Required Resources:**

- 1) Navroz K Dubash et al., India and Climate Change: Evolving Ideas and Increasing Policy Engagement, *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* (2018).
- 2) Parul Kumar and Abhayraj Naik, India's Domestic Climate Policy is Fragmented and Lacks Clarity, *Economic & Political Weekly Engage* (2019).
- 3) Shibani Ghosh, Litigating Climate Claims in India, 114 *AJIL Unbound* (2020).
- 4) Petition and final judgment in *Ridhima Pandey v. Union of India* before the National Green Tribunal (2017 and 2019).

## **Session 6: Climate Change, Civil Society and Communication**

These units examine the landscape of civil society engagement with climate change in India and explores innovative ways to communicate research on climate change in India.

### **Background Required Resources:**

- 1) Extinction Rebellion India, website, at: <https://www.extinctionrebellion.in>
- 2) Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change, website, at: <http://inecc.net/Default.html>
- 3) ecologise.in - South Asian People's Action on Climate Crisis, website, at: <https://www.ecologise.in/sapacc/>
- 4) Tuomas Ylä-Anttila and Pradip Swarnakar, Crowding-in: how Indian civil society organisations began mobilizing around climate change, *The British Journal of Sociology* (2017)
- 5) Jagadish Thaker, Climate Change Communication in India, *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Climate Science* (2017)
- 6) Varinder Gambhir and Prerna Kumar, How the people of India live with climate change and what communication can do, *Climate Asia* (2016)

## **Module 3: Methods, Tools and Resources for Climate Justice Practice**

### **Session 7: Assessments for Climate Justice**

This session explores some of the common methods, resources and tools for carrying out relevant assessments in the context of climate change.

### **Background Required Resources:**

- 1) Bioversity International and Institute of Development Studies, Climate Change and Food Security Vulnerability Assessment - toolkit for assessing community-level potential for adaptation to climate change (2015)
- 2) GIZ and Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, A Framework for Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments (year unknown), at: [https://www.adaptationcommunity.net/?wpfb\\_dl=236](https://www.adaptationcommunity.net/?wpfb_dl=236)
- 3) International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Community-based Risk Screening Tool—Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRiSTAL), at: <https://www.iisd.org/cristaltool/>
- 4) UNFCCC, Impact Assessment and Vulnerability Assessment, web-compilation, at: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/Search.aspx?tags={%22informationtype%22:%22tool%22,%22adaptationelement%22:%22impactassessment,vulnerabilityassessment%22}>

## **Session 8: Climate Change Adaptation Tools for Working with Communities**

This session explores some of the common methods, resources and tools for working with communities on climate change adaptation.

### **Background Required Resources:**

- 1) Elvis Modikela Nkoana, Climate Change Adaptation Tools at the Community Level: An Integrated Literature Review, *sustainability* (2018)
- 2) International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), Community-based Risk Screening Tool—Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRiSTAL), at: <https://www.iisd.org/cristaltool/>
- 3) UNDP, Designing Climate Change Adaptation Initiatives (2010)
- 4) Amarnath Tripathi and Ashok K. Mishra, Knowledge and passive adaptation to climate change: An example from Indian farmers, *Climate Risk Management* (2017)

## **Module 4: Transformative Approaches for Climate Justice in India**

### **Session 9 & 10: Project Presentations, Synthesis, Feedback and Goodbye!**

These final sessions are focused on transformative approaches to climate justice in India. Student projects for the course are presented and discussed in this context.

### **Background Required Resources:**

- 1) Project Drafts/Prototypes
  - 2) Robert W. Kates et al, Transformational adaptation when incremental adaptations to climate change are insufficient, *PNAS* (2012)
  - 3) Karen O'Brien and Linda Sygna, Responding to Climate Change: The Three Spheres of Transformation, *Proceedings of Transformation in a Changing Climate* (2013)
  - 4) Ioan Fazey et al, Transformation in a changing climate: a research agenda, *Climate and Development* (2017)
  - 5) Ross Gillard et al, Transformational responses to climate change: beyond a systems perspective of social change in mitigation and adaptation, *WIREs Climate Change* (2016)
  - 6) Sonja J. Vermeulen et al, Transformation in Practice: A Review of Empirical Cases of Transformational Adaptation in Agriculture under Climate Change, *frontiers in sustainable food systems* (2018)
  - 7) J. David Tàbara et al, Defining transformative climate science to address high-end climate change, *Regional Environmental Change* (2019)
  - 8) Peter P.J. Driessen, Societal transformations in the face of climate change - Research priorities for the next decade (year unknown), at: <http://www.jpi-climate.eu/media/default.aspx/emma/org/10829915/Paper+Societal+transformations+in+the+face+of+climate+change+-+April+2013+JPI+Climate.pdf>
  - 9) Katharina Hölscher, Steering transformations under climate change: capacities for transformative climate governance and the case of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, *Regional Environmental Change* (2019)
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