

Azim Premji University

Course Specifications: Climate Justice in India, 2021

(current as of 2 July 2021)

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| Course Title | Climate Justice in India | | |
| Programme Title | | | |
| Mode | M1 | Level | 7 |
| Course ID | [●] | Credits | 3 |
| Course Type | Elective | Semester | II |
| Duration | One Semester | Academic Year | 2020-2021 |
| C o u r s e Development Team | Abhayraj Naik [abhayraj.naik@apu.edu.in] | | |
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Course Rationale:

Climate change is one of the most important and worrisome challenges that humanity has faced. Existing scientific research suggests that India is one of those countries that are likely to be particularly affected by global warming and climate change. We are already seeing the devastating effects of climate change across the country in the form of high-intensity rainfall, floods, heat waves, biodiversity loss, forest fires, food insecurity, water insecurity, spread of infectious diseases, and so on. Climate change is disproportionately affecting and will continue to disproportionately affect vulnerable and marginalised communities and individuals across India. Climate change also presents a number of new opportunities for us to evaluate and reorient our ways of living in the world.

The enormity, complexity, and special nature of climate change as an existential and developmental problem make it particularly difficult for educators, development practitioners, researchers, policy-makers, and leaders to configure appropriate responses to the climate crisis. 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 such, the idea of climate justice provides for a useful frame and imagination for theorists and practitioners to identify, understand, analyse, evaluate, and respond to the climate crisis in their own specific professional contexts. This introductory course develops abilities, character, and a sense of direction towards climate justice.

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.

Course Description:

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). 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, a documentary film, a public art installation, etc. Students will be guided in conceptualising and developing their specific projects through in-class workshop-style segments focused on brainstorming, project design, research methods, prototyping, documentation and communication apart from

individualised and peer feedback on the project proposal and draft project/prototype, one-on-one mentoring, and (where possible) introductions 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.

Assessment and Evaluation:

Students enrolled in the 'Climate Justice in India' 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.

The graded evaluations for the course will be:

1. Project proposal (20%)
2. Reflection Essay (20%)
3. Project Prototype Report (20%)
4. Project Final Report (30%)
5. Attendance and Class Participation (10%)

SYLLABUS

Module 1: Theorising Climate Justice

Week 1: Why Climate Justice?

This introductory week 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:

Before the Flood (2016), documentary film.

Greta Thunberg, Speech at COP24 in Katowice, Poland (2019), video.

Recommended Reading:

Mary Robinson, Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future (2018) - excerpts TBD

Week 2: What is Climate Justice? Part 1

This week examines certain influential theoretical accounts of climate justice.

Background Required Resources:

Stephen M. Gardiner, Climate Justice, *The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Society* (2012)

Geoff Mann and Joel Wainwright, *Climate Leviathan* (2018) - excerpts TBD

Recommended Reading:

Upendra Baxi, Towards a climate change justice theory, *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment* (2016)

Week 3: What is Climate Justice? Part 2

This week continues to focus on certain influential theoretical accounts of climate justice.

André Gorz, *Capitalism, Socialism, Ecology* (2013) - excerpts TBD

Nicole Fabricant, Good Living for Whom? Bolivia's Climate Justice Movement and the Limitations of Indigenous Cosmovisions, *Latin American and Caribbean Ethnic Studies* (2013)

Recommended Reading:

Bradley C. Parks and J. Timmons Roberts, *Climate Change, Social Theory and Justice, Theory, Culture & Society* (2010)

Module 2: Contextualising the Space of Climate Justice in India

Week 4: Climate Change Impacts

This week 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:

Changing Farming Lives in South India, Past and Present, ongoing research project website, at: <http://fass.open.ac.uk/research/projects/changing-farming-lives>

Mongabay India, Impacts of Climate Change News, collection of short articles, at: <https://india.mongabay.com/list/impacts-of-climate-change/>

IndiaSpend, India's Climate Change Hotspots, collection of short articles, at: <https://www.indiaspend.com/category/indias-climate-change-hotspots/>

IndiaSpend interview with NH Ravindranath, Climate Change will Soon Become Critical and India is Unprepared to Handle It, *Firstpost* (2019), at: <https://www.firstpost.com/tech/science/climate-change-will-soon-become-critical-and-india-is-unprepared-to-handle-it-6915891.html>

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>

Recommended Reading:

IPCC, Global Warming of 1.5° C, at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

Week 5: Climate Change and the City

This week focuses on climate change impacts and climate action in Indian cities.

Background Required Resources:

Centre for Policy Research, Cities and Climate Change, research project website, at: <https://cprindia.org/projects/cities-and-climate-change>

Jan Beermann et al, Climate action in Indian cities: an emerging new research area, *Journal of Integrative Environmental Sciences* (2016)

Recommended Reading:

Partha Mukhopadhyay and Aromar Revi, Climate change and urbanisation in India, A Handbook of Climate Change and India: Development, Politics and Governance (2011)

Week 6: Climate Change Policy

This week examines the policy landscape for climate change in India.

Background Required Resources:

Navroz K Dubash et al, India and Climate Change: Evolving Ideas and Increasing Policy Engagement, *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* (2018)

Parul Kumar and Abhayraj Naik, India's Domestic Climate Policy is Fragmented and Lacks Clarity, *Economic & Political Weekly Engage* (2019)

Recommended Reading:

Navroz Dubash et al, India's Climate Change Policy: Exploring a Co-Benefits Based Approach, *Economic & Political Weekly* (2013)

Week 7: Climate Change Law

This week examines the domestic and international law relating to climate change and India.

Background Required Resources:

Deepa Badrinarayana, Climate Change Law and Policy in India, *The Oxford Handbook of International Climate Change Law* (2016)

Lavanya Rajamani and Shibani Ghosh, India, Climate Change Liability: Transnational Law and Practice (2011)

Recommended Reading:

Lavanya Rajamani, India's approach to international law in the climate change regime, *Indian Journal of International Law* (2017)

Week 8: Climate Change Litigation

This week examines global and Indian developments in climate change litigation.

Background Required Resources:

Petition and final judgment in *Ridhima Pandey v. Union of India* before the National Green Tribunal (2017 and 2019)

UN Environment, *The Status of Climate Change Litigation: A Global Review* (2017)

Recommended Reading:

Sabin Centre for Climate Change Law, *Climate Change Litigation Databases*, at: <http://climatecasechart.com>

Week 9: Climate Change and Civil Society

This week examines the landscape of civil society engagement with climate change in India.

Background Required Resources:

Susannah Fisher, *The emerging geographies of climate justice*, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment (2012)

Extinction Rebellion India, website, at: <https://www.extinctionrebellion.in>

Indian Network on Ethics and Climate Change, website, at: <http://inecc.net/Default.html>

[ecologise.in](http://www.ecologise.in) - South Asian People's Action on Climate Crisis, website, at: <https://www.ecologise.in/sapacc/>

Recommended Reading:

Tuomas Ylä-Anttila and Pradip Swarnakar, *Crowding-in: how Indian civil society organisations began mobilizing around climate change*, *The British Journal of Sociology* (2017)

Week 10: Climate Change Research and Communication

This week examines innovative ways to carry out research and to communicate research on climate change in India.

Background Required Resources:

Jagdish Thaker, *Climate Change Communication in India*, Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Climate Science (2017)

Varinder Gambhir and Prerna Kumar, *How the people of India live with climate change and what communication can do*, *Climate Asia* (2016)

Recommended Reading:

Anthony Leiserowitz and Jagadish Thaker, *Climate Change in the Indian Mind*, Yale Project on Climate Change Communication (2012)

Module 3: Methods, Resources and Tools for Climate Justice

Week 11: Assessments for Climate Justice

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

Background Required Resources:

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)

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

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), *Community-based Risk Screening Tool—Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRiSTAL)*, at: <https://www.iisd.org/cristaltool/>

Recommended Reading:

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}>

Week 12: Climate Change Adaptation Tools for Working with Communities

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

Background Required Resources:

Elvis Modikela Nkoana, *Climate Change Adaptation Tools at the Community Level: An Integrated Literature Review*, *sustainability* (2018)

International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), *Community-based Risk Screening Tool—Adaptation and Livelihoods (CRiSTAL)*, at: <https://www.iisd.org/cristaltool/>

UNDP, *Designing Climate Change Adaptation Initiatives* (2010)

Recommended Reading:

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

Weeks 13, 14 & 15: Project Presentations, Synthesis, Feedback and Goodbye!

These final three weeks 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:

Project Drafts/Prototypes

Robert W. Kates et al, Transformational adaptation when incremental adaptations to climate change are insufficient, *PNAS* (2012)

Karen O'Brien and Linda Sygna, Responding to Climate Change: The Three Spheres of Transformation, *Proceedings of Transformation in a Changing Climate* (2013)

Ioan Fazey et al, Transformation in a changing climate: a research agenda, *Climate and Development* (2017)

Ross Gillard et al, Transformational responses to climate change: beyond a systems perspective of social change in mitigation and adaptation, *WIREs Climate Change* (2016)

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)

Recommended Reading:

J. David Tàbara et al, Defining transformative climate science to address high-end climate change, *Regional Environmental Change* (2019)

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>

Katharina Hölscher, Steering transformations under climate change: capacities for transformative climate governance and the case of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, *Regional Environmental Change* (2019)