SPI 593A
Cities and Climate Change

Instructor: Prof. Benjamin Bradlow
Email: bhbradlow@princeton.edu
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


**Week 2: Adaptation**

September 11


September 13


**Week 3: Mitigation**

September 18


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


September 20


**Week 4: Movements**

September 25 — NO CLASS

September 27

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


**Midterm essay due September 29**
Week 5: Institutions

October 2


October 4


Week 6: Global economy and finance

October 9


October 11


**Final assignment due October 27**