**SOC 377 / ENV 322 / URB 322**  
*Sociology of Climate Change*

Instructor: Prof. Benjamin Bradlow  
Email: bhbradlow@princeton.edu  
Class: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30p-2:50p  
Office hours: Wednesdays, 3p-5p Wallace Hall 328  
Sign up for office hours here:  
https://outlook.office.com/bookwithme/user/7c012da085eb4187b9a78b442caa091c@princeton.edu/meetingtype/SVRwCe7HMUGxuT6WGxi68g2?anonymous&ep=mLinkFromTile

**Course description**  
The course begins by considering the social basis for the production and distribution of carbon emissions. Which people, companies, and countries are responsible? On whom do the effects fall? We then examine the institutions that try to govern the production of carbon emissions. These exist at different scales — global bodies, nations, and cities. And we investigate who is trying to change these institutions, with a particular focus on different types of social movements, governments, and private firms. We consider how these actors are both similar and different across rich and poor countries. Since the age of the Anthropocene has been accompanied by the mass migration of humans to cities, we look at the role of urban sociology and politics in shaping carbon emissions. And finally, we debate recent proposed solutions that rely on many of the analyses and evidence that we have studied earlier in the course.

**Goals**  
Between readings, class discussions, and written assignments in this course, our goal is to consider how both large meta-narratives and more grounded, practical approaches are deployed to navigate the inequalities that both drive climate change and efforts to mitigate its effects. Students have — and are learning — different inclinations. Some will prefer the theoretical work and some will prefer the policy-oriented work. Assignments will enable students to pursue their inclinations across this spectrum.

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

1) Identify different types of inequality that shape the politics of climate change today  
2) Put forward a position on major policy debates in reducing climate change  
3) Analyze why different actors are empowered or disempowered in trying to influence climate change politics

**Assignments**  
There are two main assignments for this course. The mid-term assignment will be a short essay (1000 words). The final term assignment will be a longer research paper (3300-3800 words). This paper will be of a topic of each student’s choosing, in consultation with the professor.
and/or teaching fellow. This paper can be either focused on policy or theoretical concerns covered in the course. Each of these assignments will include critical reflection on different modes of writing in sociology, and how these translate to different kinds of “real world” settings.

In addition, you will be responsible for a Canvas discussion post once a week. This can take two different forms. Either you can pick a quote from a reading that you found interesting and discuss what you liked / didn’t like about it, or you can ask a question about a reading. Each post should be in the range of 200-300 words. I consult your comments before class and aim to bring in the online discussion into the classroom. As a result, these Canvas posts are due by 9a the day of the relevant class session.

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.

Grade
15% participation — class & section
15% weekly Canvas posts
30% op-ed / short essay
40% final paper

Office hours and communication expectations
My office hours are on Thursday, 2:30-4:30p. You can sign up using the link at the top of this syllabus. If this time period does not work, please be in touch to try to schedule another time.

You are required to attend office hours at least twice. A growing body of research underscores how important asking for help is as a critical skill for learning in college and throughout your professional career. Office hours are a particularly important space in which to develop this skill.

I promise to reply to emails within 24 hours during the week but cannot guarantee replies over the weekends or holidays.

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

[https://www.phenomenalworld.org/analysis/global-boiling/](https://www.phenomenalworld.org/analysis/global-boiling/)

**Week 2: Industrial capitalism and development**

September 11


September 13


**Week 3: Colonialism and Empire**

September 18


September 20


**Week 4: Growth / de-growth**

September 25 NO CLASS

September 27


**Week 5: Migration and Cities**

October 2


October 4


**Week 6: Global politics and neoliberalism, I**

October 9


October 11


**October 13 — Mid-term assignment due**
Week 7: Global politics and neoliberalism, II

October 23


October 25


Week 8: Elite actors, mass actors, and the state, I

October 30


November 1


**Week 9: Elite actors, mass actors, and the state, II**

November 6


November 8


**Week 10: Elite actors, mass actors, and the state, III**

November 13


Part 3. https://medium.com/@sosofancy/the-secret-diary-of-a-sustainable-investor-part-3-3c238cb0dcbf
November 20


**Week 11: Making policy**

November 27


November 29


**Week 12: Green New Deals and their Discontents**

December 4


December 6


https://www.phenomenalworld.org/analysis/non-alignment-brics/

**Final assignment due December 15**