Department of Anthropology

ANTHRO 3393F-650: Special Topics in Anthropology – Climate Risk and Justice

BRIEF COURSE OUTLINE

Fall 2025

Date: June 24, 2025

Instructor and course information:

Instructor: Dr. Jeremy Trombley

Method of delivery: Online

Credit value: 0.5

Antirequisites: None.

Prerequisites: Registration in third or fourth year in any program.

Course Description:

The world is facing increasing risk and uncertainty as a result of ongoing climate change. However, these risks, as well as the benefits that might accrue due to climate change are not equally distributed. Some people will benefit more than others and some will be harmed or face increased risk more than others. In this course, we will examine climate change, first and foremost, as a social process rather than a technical or natural one. In doing so, we will be able to evaluate these imbalances of risk and reward through a historical, sociological, and anthropological lens. We will begin by examining different concepts of justice that can help frame climate inequalities. We will then examine the roles of social conditions and institutions in causing and perpetuating climate injustice as well as how these institutions might resolve injustices. Using these insights, we will examine multiple case studies of climate injustice and think about how to work towards solutions.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course's OWL Brightspace site before the first day of class.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize the social dimensions of climate change, and understand it as a social phenomenon.
- Critically evaluate climate change through different theories of justice.
- Evaluate the unequal impacts of climate change on communities.
- Explain the role of economic, governance, and scientific institutional structures in climate justice.
- Apply theories of justice to real-world cases of climate change

Course Materials:

No textbook

Evaluation:

Grades will be based on the following:

Engagement	40%
Weekly Activities	40%
Case Study Essay	15%
Course Reflection	5%

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