How can we understand and solve the challenges of climate change in ways that acknowledge the unequal responsibilities for climate change, the uneven impacts of climate change on different places and people, and the need to develop responses and solutions that reduce the risks of climate change for everyone without undermining other goals of sustainable development? In this five-week course we will consider the origins of calls for climate justice from researchers, poor and vulnerable countries, women and youth, communities of color, and policy makers. We will discuss the debates within and between researchers, activists, communities and countries about who is most responsible for climate change, who is most vulnerable to it, and who should respond and how. The course will include a mix of lectures (some recorded for background viewing), readings, discussions, and live interviews with some leading scholars and local activists.

Diana Liverman is a geographer who studies and teaches about the human dimensions of global environmental change, especially the social causes, consequences and responses to climate change. Recently elected to the US National Academy of Sciences, she has been a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and has served on advisory groups to the US government, the United Nations, and business, environmental and cultural organizations. Professor Liverman directs the School of Geography, Development & Environment at the University of Arizona where she holds a faculty appointment as Regents Professor. She was born in Ghana, grew up in England, and studied in London, Toronto, Los Angeles and Colorado. She has taught at University of Wisconsin, Penn State, Oxford and the University of Arizona.
Course Outline

February 3rd

- Overview of human dimensions of climate change (Causes, Consequences, Responses)
- Principles of Climate Justice
- Perceptions of Climate Justice

February 10th

- Who is responsible for climate change? Greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and land use change by nation, sector, state, city, corporation and individuals
- Who is responsible for reducing emissions? The debate over fair shares

February 17th

- Uneven impacts of climate change – geographic variation in impacts on places
- Climate justice and vulnerability to climate change
- Who is most vulnerable and why?

February 24th

- Justice in responding to climate change – who wins and who loses in efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change?
- Climate justice in carbon markets and carbon offsets

March 3rd

- Climate justice movements – Youth, Indigenous, Women, Artists, Green New Deal
- Climate justice in Arizona
Books and Films relevant to the course (not a required reading list!)

Ayana Johnson and Katharine Wilkinson (2020) All We Can Save: Truth, Courage and Solutions for the Climate Crisis.
James Hansen (2009) Storms of My Grandchildren
Sheila Watt-Cloutier (2018) The Right to be Cold: One Woman’s Fight to Protect the Arctic
Naomi Oreskes (2010) Merchants of Doubt: How a Handful of Scientists Obscured the Truth on Issues from Tobacco Smoke to Global Warming
Naomi Klein This Changes Everything

Climate Fiction

Barbara Kingsolver (2012) Flight Behavior
Octavia Butler (1993) Parable of the Sower

Films

Beasts of the Southern Wild
Day After Tomorrow
Many documentaries (Inconvenient Truth, Before the Flood, Chasing Ice, True North, Years of Living Dangerously, David Attenborough, Life on our Planet)