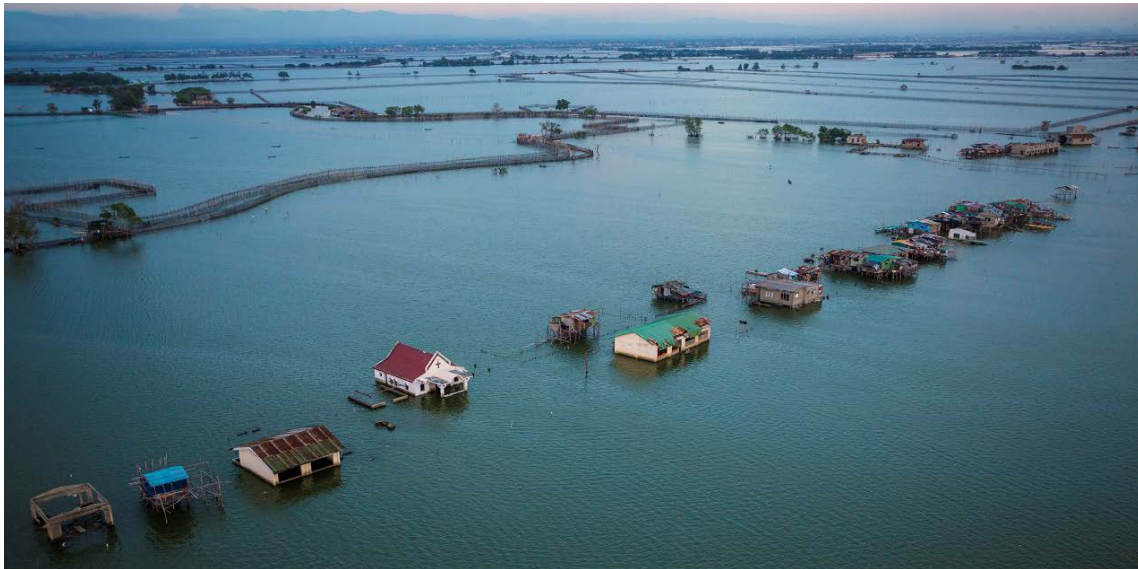


# ENVS 411: Coastal Cities and Climate Change

Fall 2017 Tuesday/Thursday 8:30 – 10:00

142 Columbia Hall – CRN 12231

Instructor: Avni Pravin



Coastal cities and settlements around the world will have to surmount a variety of impacts as climate change continues to alter physical earth systems, and thus the social systems that govern our lives. Sea level rise, more frequent natural disasters, the inundation of fresh water supplies, heat waves, flooding, and rates of disease from water borne bacteria are just a few economically and socially catastrophic events that climate change may increase the frequency of in these places. Furthermore, these events are expected to disproportionately impact certain groups of people, such as low income, historically marginalized, and otherwise oppressed peoples as they lack the resources to adapt to these changes on their own.

This course will be an exploration of how cities and regional governments in coastal areas are planning for the impacts of climate change as well as hastening to mitigate carbon pollution through development (or perhaps lack of development), smarter planning, rebuilding infrastructure, and policy. We will be looking at case studies from around the world to critically analyze these strategies from a perspective of social justice and environmental degradation.



A special focus will be placed on examining the different ways that cities in the global North and cities in the global South respond, depending on financial and technological resources, political atmosphere, and grassroots organizing. By the end of this course, students will be familiar with common adaptation strategies, principles for equitable climate adaptation projects, and the role that development plays in exacerbating and abating these problems.