

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

ESPM 163AC AND SOCIOLOGY 137AC

4 Units – Spring 2012

LECTURES:

Monday & Wednesday 5:30-6:30 pm
CCN: 29490

2060 Valley LSB
Discussion Sections: Mandatory

INSTRUCTOR:

Dara O'Rourke

orourke@berkeley.edu

Office Hours: Wed. 3:00-5:00 pm. 130B Giannini Hall. Sign up at: <http://tungle.me/dara>

GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTORS:

Abigail Martin

abigailmartin880@gmail.com

Miriam Zuk

mzuk@berkeley.edu

Jesse Williamson

jwilliamson@berkeley.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course engages environmental problems, community responses, and policy debates regarding “environmental justice” (EJ) issues – essentially the race, class, and equity implications of environmental problems and policies. The course presents empirical evidence on distributions of environmental quality and health, enforcement of regulations, access to resources to respond to urban and industrial problems, and the broader political economy of decision-making around environmental and health issues. The course explores and critically analyzes philosophies, frameworks, and strategies underlying environmental justice movements and struggles of African American, Latino American, Asian American, and Native American communities.

The course seeks to prepare students to critically analyze environmental outcomes and processes, providing frameworks for evaluating the equity implications of environmental policies and programs, and distributions of environmental amenities and burdens. Case studies of, and research methods for, identifying environmental, health, and social inequities that underlie environmental justice claims will be incorporated throughout the course. Students will also analyze community and government responses to environmental injustices, and critically assess recent strategies to promote more ecologically sound and socially just development.

The course will include cases of environmental problems in communities that are predominantly African American, Latino American, Asian American, and Native American. These cases will be analyzed using social science research methods, and discussed within a broad political economy framework, essentially asking why environmental problems play out differently for different groups, and why some groups are more effective than others in mobilizing to pressure for environmental improvements.

GOALS FOR THE COURSE

- Analyze institutional processes impacting race, class, and the environment;
- Analyze data on the distributions of environmental quality and demographic trends;
- Analyze government policies related to environmental issues;
- Analyze strategies to prevent or remedy environmental justice problems;
- Strengthen critical thinking, writing, and presentation skills.

ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to:

1. Read all of the assigned readings before each lecture for which they are assigned, and actively participate in class discussions in lectures and sections.
2. Complete three short individual assignments during the semester. These may include:
 - a) Complete a short assignment defining environmental injustice and describing how your own racial, socio-economic, or geographic background influenced your exposure to environmental harm and access to environmental benefits. This assignment will be due on **February 6th**.
 - b) Complete a short essay analyzing federal, state, or local government policies related to an EJ case. This assignment will be due on **March 7th**.
 - c) Complete a short assignment on Participatory Action Research with your non-profit group. Describe the goals and strategies of your partner group and analyze the research questions they are interested in. This assignment will be due on **April 4th**.
3. Complete a group service learning project.
 - a) Students will form project teams consisting of 3 to 5 people from your discussion section. The teams will conduct a “service learning” project with a local non-profit organization. A list of possible service learning projects will be presented to the class on **January 25th**.
 - b) Contact your organization **by February 10th** to arrange a face-to-face meeting with them in the next 10 days.
 - c) Write a one-paragraph description of your term project topic and a one-page outline of your plan of action for completing the project. Due on **February 24th**.
 - d) Teams will meet with their GSI at least once during the semester to discuss their plans for the term project. Students will also meet once individually with their GSI to discuss the term project. Term projects will be due in class and to your partner organizations on **April 25th**. Late projects will not be accepted.
4. Students will take an in-class final exam. This exam will link the course readings and lectures to experiential learning from the term projects. We will be in Final Exam Group 18: **Friday, May 11 from 11:30-2:30**.

EVALUATION:

The course grade will be based on the following activities:

20%	-	Class participation in lectures and sections.
20%	-	Assignments
40%	-	Term project
20%	-	Final Examination

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND COURSE JUSTICE

This course is about justice and equity. In that light, and in fairness to students who put in an honest effort, cheaters will be treated very strictly. Any evidence of cheating will result in a score of zero on the assignment. Incidences of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs, which may administer additional punishment.

REQUIRED READINGS

The readings will be available either in the course reader or on the web. The reader will be on reserve in the CNR Resource Center (260 Mulford Hall). The reader will be available for purchase at CopyEdge, 2121 University Ave.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

January 18 - Introduction to the Course

No readings.

January 23 – What is Environmental Injustice?

Mohai, Paul, David Pellow, and J. Timmons Roberts, “Environmental Justice,” *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 2009, 34:405-430.

January 25 – Environmental Disparities in the US

Saha, Robin, “A Current Appraisal of Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States - 2007.” *Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty*. United Church of Christ, pp: 49-83.

January 30— Health Disparities in the US

Landrigan, Philip, Virginia Rauh, and Maida Galvez, “Environmental Justice and the Health of Children,” *Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine*, 2010, vol. 77: 178-187.

Morello-Frosch, Rachel, Miriam Zuk, Michael Jerrett, Bhavna Shamasunder, and Amy D. Kyle, “Understanding the Cumulative Impacts of Inequality in Environmental Health: Implications for Policy,” *Health Affairs* 30, No. 5 (2011): 879-887.

Wilkinson, Richard, “How Economic Inequality Harms Societies,” TED talk, July 2011, http://www.ted.com/talks/richard_wilkinson.html

February 1 – Frameworks of Justice

Schlosberg, David, 2003, “The Justice of Environmental Justice: Reconciling Equity, Recognition, and Participation in a Political Movement.” In Andrew Light and Avner deShalit, eds., *Moral and Political Reasoning in Environmental Practice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

February 6 – Race in America

Bobo, Lawrence, “Racial Attitudes and Relations at the Close of the Twentieth Century,” in N. Smelser, W.J. Wilson, and F. Mitchell (eds.) *America Becoming – Racial Trends and their Consequences*, Washington, D.C.: National Research Council, pp.: 264-301, 2001.

Pulido, Laura. 2000. Rethinking Environmental Racism: White Privilege and Urban Development in Southern California. *Annals of the Assc. of American Geographers*. 90:12-40.

February 8 – Class in America

Gilson, David and Carolyn Perot, “It’s the Inequality, Stupid!” *Mother Jones*, April 2011, <http://motherjones.com/politics/2011/02/income-inequality-in-america-chart-graph>

Krugman, Paul, “For Richer,” *The New York Times*, Sunday Magazine p. 62, October 20, 2002.

Foroohar, Rana, “What Ever Happened To Upward Mobility?” *Time Magazine*, Nov. 14, 2011, Vol. 178, Issue 19.

For more statistics, check out: <http://inequality.org/inequality-data-statistics/>

February 13 - Measuring Environmental Injustices

Pastor, Manuel, et.al. 2005. “Environmental Inequity in Metropolitan Los Angeles,” in R. Bullard (ed.) *The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution*, San Francisco: Sierra Club Books. Pgs. 108-124.

Mohai, Paul, et.al. 2009. Racial and socioeconomic disparities in residential proximity to polluting industrial facilities: Evidence from the Americans’ Changing Lives study. *American Journal of Public Health*. 99 (supp 3):S649-S656.

February 15 – Measuring Environmental “Risks”

US EPA, “What is Risk Assessment?” available at:
<http://epa.gov/riskassessment/basicinformation.htm#arisk>

Sexton, Ken and Stephen H. Linder, “The Role of Cumulative Risk Assessment in Decisions about Environmental Justice,” *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health*, 2010, 7, 4037-4049.

February 20 – President’s Day

Feb 22 – Federal Policies - Guest Speaker – Max Weintraub

Clinton, William J. 1994. Executive Order 12898: Federal actions to address environmental justice in minority populations and low-income populations. Available at www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12898.pdf

US EPA, “Plan EJ 2014” available at:
<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/resources/policy/plan-ej-2014/plan-ej-exec-sum.pdf>

US EPA, “Mercury and Air Toxics Standard,” Dec. 21, 2011, available at:
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/bd4379a92ceceecac8525735900400c27/bd8b3f37edf5716d8525796d005dd086!OpenDocument>

February 27 – State and Local Policies

Bonorris, Steven. 2010. *Environmental Justice for All: A Fifty State Survey of Legislation, Policies and Cases* (Fourth Edition), pp: i-xviii.

Bonorris, Steven and Nicholas Targ. 2010. Environmental Justice in the Laboratories of Democracy. *Natural Resources & the Environment*. Fall, 2010.

February 29 – Legal Bases for Environmental Justice Claims

Weinberg, Philip, “Equal Protection,” Chapter 1 in M. Gerrard (ed.) *The Law of Environmental Justice*, American Bar Association, pp.: 3-22, 2008.

Mank, Bradford, "Title VI," Chapter 2 in M. Gerrard (ed.) *The Law of Environmental Justice*, American Bar Association, pp.: 23-67, 2008.

March 5 – The Environmental Justice Movement

Taylor, Dorceta E. 2002. Race, class, gender, and American environmentalism. Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-534. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. Read pages: 1-4, 20-41.

Lerner, Steve. 2010. "Port Arthur, Texas: Public Housing Residents Breathe Contaminated Air from Nearby Refineries and Chemical Plants," in *Sacrifice Zones: The Front Lines of Toxic Chemical Exposure in the United States*. MIT Press.

March 7 – Campaigning Strategies

Cole, Luke, "Empowerment as the Key to Environmental Protection: The Need for Environmental Poverty Law," *Ecology Law Quarterly*, vol. 19:619-683, 1992.

Davis, Mike, "No More Bubble Gum," *Los Angeles Review of Books*, Oct. 21st, 2011, <http://lareviewofbooks.org/post/11725867619/no-more-bubble-gum>

March 12 – Community-Based Participatory Research

Minkler, Meredith, Victoria Breckwich Vásquez, Mansoureh Tajik, and Dana Petersen, "Promoting Environmental Justice Through Community-Based Participatory Research: The Role of Community and Partnership Capacity," *Health Education & Behavior*, Vol. 35 (1): 119-137, 2008.

Gonzalez, Priscilla, Meredith Minkler, Analilia P. Garcia, Margaret Gordon, Catalina Garzon, Meena Palaniappan, Swati Prakash, and Brian Beveridge, "Community-Based Participatory Research and Policy Advocacy to Reduce Diesel Exposure in West Oakland, California," *American Journal of Public Health*, Supplement 1, 2011, vol. 101, No. S1, pp: S166-S175.

March 14 – Community Monitoring

O'Rourke, Dara and Gregg Macey, "Community Environmental Policing: Assessing New Strategies of Public Participation in Environmental Regulation," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, vol. 22, no. 3, pp.: 383-414, 2003.

Pastor, Manuel et al. 2009. "Bridging the Bay: University-Community Collaborations," in *Breakthrough Communities: Sustainability and Justice in the Next American Metropolis*, edited by P. Pavel, MIT Press, pp: 243-255.

March 19 – Biomonitoring

Sexton, Ken, Larry Needham, and James Pirkle, "Human Biomonitoring of Environmental Chemicals," *American Scientist*, vol. 92, pp: 38-45, 2004.

Morello-Frosch, Rachel, Julia Brody, Phil Brown, Rebecca Gasio Altman, Ruthann Rudel, and Carla Perez, "Toxic Ignorance and Right-to-Know in Biomonitoring Results Communication: A Survey of Scientists and Study Participants," *Environmental Health*, 2009 8:6.

March 21 – Community Benefits Agreements

Feingold, Danny. 2009. "LAX Rising," in *Breakthrough Communities: Sustainability and Justice in the Next American Metropolis*, edited by P. Pavel, MIT Press, pp: 199-204.

LeRoy, Greg. 2009. "Community Benefits Agreements: A Strategy for Renewing our Cities," in *Breakthrough Communities: Sustainability and Justice in the Next American Metropolis*, edited by P. Pavel, MIT Press, pp: 205-212.

March 26-30 - SPRING BREAK

April 2 – Climate Change and Justice

IPCC, "Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report – Summary for Policymakers," Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

350.org, "350 Science", available at: <http://www.350.org/en/about/science>

Roberts, Timmons (2009), "The International Dimension of Climate Justice and the Need for International Adaptation Funding," *Environmental Justice*, Vol. 2, No. 4.

April 4 – Climate Justice Activism

Chawla, Ambika, "Climate Justice Movements Gather Strength," WorldWatch, *State of the World 2009*.

Sze, Julie et al. (2009), "Best in Show? Climate and Environmental Justice Policy in California," *Environmental Justice*, Vol. 2, No. 4.

April 9 – International EJ

Grineski, Sara, et al. No Safe Place: Environmental Hazards & Injustice along Mexico's Northern Border. *Social Forces*, Volume 88, Number 5, July 2010, pp. 2241-2265.

Lipman, Zada, "Trade In Hazardous Waste: Environmental Justice Versus Economic Growth," available at: <http://ban.org/library/lipman.html>

April 11 – Consumption and EJ

Middlemiss, Lucie, 2010, "Reframing Individual Responsibility for Sustainable Consumption: Lessons from Environmental Justice and Ecological Citizenship," *Environmental Values* 19 (2010): 147–167.

Leonard, Annie, *The Story of Stuff*, 2008, available at: <http://www.storyofstuff.org/>

GoodGuide, available at: <http://goodguide.com>

April 16 – Food Justice and Health Equity

Gottlieb, Robert, "Where We Live Work, Play...and Eat: Expanding the Environmental Justice Agenda," *Environmental Justice*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2009.

Freedman, David, "Obesity – United States, 1988-2008," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Jan. 14, 2011, pp: 73-77.

Beckles, Gloria, "Diabetes – United States, 2004-2008," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Jan. 14, 2011, pp: 90-93.

April 18 – Green Jobs and Sustainable Development

Krueger, Rob and Agyeman, Julian. 2004. Sustainability schizophrenia or "actually existing sustainabilities?" toward a broader understanding of the politics and promise of local sustainability in the US. *Geoforum*. 36: 410-417.

United Nations Environment Programme. 2008. Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World, pp: 3-28.

April 23 – What Do We Want in Our Backyards?

Blackwell, Angela and Radhika Fox, "Regional Equity and Smart Growth: Opportunities for Advancing Social and Economic Justice in America," commissioned by the Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, 2004.

Jones, Van, "A Contract for the American Dream," available at:
http://contract.rebuildthedream.com/?rc=rtd_feature

April 25 – The Future of Environmental Justice

Brulle, Robert and David Pellow. 2005. "The Future of Environmental Justice Movements," in D. Pellow and R. Brulle (eds.) *Power, Justice, and Environment: A Critical Appraisal of the Environmental Justice Movement*, Cambridge: MIT Press, pp.: 171-184, 2005.

Sze, Julie and Jonathan London, "Environmental Justice at the Crossroads," *Sociology Compass*, 2008, 2:1331-1354.

CLASSES END

READING WEEK – April 30th – May 4th

FINAL EXAMINATION – May 11th – 11:30-2:30 p.m.