
F&ES 83065

Environmental Justice

Instructor: Dr. Amity Doolittle
Office hours: Monday 9:00-12:00—sign up outside office door
Class meeting time: Wednesday, 8:30-11:20
Classroom: Kroon 321
Teaching Assistant: Bjorn Fredrickson

Course description

In this seminar we will explore global—domestic and international—environmental issues from a perspective that foregrounds questions of social justice. The field of environmental justice asks for fair treatment of all people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, economic capacity, national origin, and education level with respect to environmental politics and their implementations. In this and other aspects, the environmental justice perspective differs from traditional environmental philosophies in that it seeks to combine a concern for the natural world with a consciousness of ethnic, class, and gender discrimination. From this vantage point it is argued that throughout the world there are marked and increasing disparities between those who have access to clean and safe resources and those who do not. Often poor and minority communities bear a disproportionately large burden of toxic contamination and suffer the health problems that result from it, while the elite and powerful tend to control the valuable resources. Disparities of this nature may be the result of historical circumstances, contemporary economic and trade relations, and inadequate or inappropriate governmental regulation. They may also be the result of deliberate targeting of disenfranchised communities or weak nations to bear the burden of powerful communities' and nations' unsustainable consumption patterns. Perceived as “paths of least resistance”, minority and low-income communities or nations are targets as sites for dumping of toxic waste and environmentally hazardous substances.

This course is based on two fundamental premises: All individuals and communities, regardless of their social or economic conditions, have the right to a clean and healthy environment; and there is a connection between environmental exploitation, human exploitation and social justice. With these premises as a starting point, we will first define “What is environmental justice?”. Then we will turn to more difficult questions such as: Why and through what political, social and economic processes are some people denied this basic right to a clean and safe environment? Why is it that certain groups of people are denied basic resource rights or are burdened with pollution of environmental hazards to a greater extent than other groups? What are the social relations of production and power that contribute to these outcomes? And finally we will consider the most important question of all: What can be done to correct these histories of inequality?

The objective of this course is to motivate you to question history and authority, and to expand your view of race, gender, class and the environment to a global scale and perspective. Since the linking of social and environmental justice movement is relatively young, this course will be an exciting opportunity to work as a group to clarify and promote the issues surrounding the environmental justice movement.

Course format, readings, and requirements

Format: Classes will be 2 hours and 50 minutes long (with a ten minute break in the middle). We will begin with an introductory 40-50 minute lecture on the week’s topic. The remaining time of the seminar I expect YOU to take over and run the discussion.

You are expected to organize a critical presentation and be equipped with discussion questions. You may choose to run the session in another way, as a debate or problem-solving exercise. Everyone is expected to participate actively in the discussion and therefore you MUST come prepared. As you do the readings each week, make notes on relevant subjects for discussion, debate, or clarification. It is suggested that you read the readings in the order they are listed.

PDFs: All articles that are available as pdfs are on classes server v2

Course requirements

1. Seminar participation, total of 30%
2. Reaction papers: 10 entries, total of 30%
3. Final research paper and presentation, total of 40%

1) Active participation in weekly seminar discussions is essential to the success of any seminar course, 30% of grade.

2) Reaction papers: You are required to write brief (no more than two-pages) reaction papers on the readings each week. These papers should include a statement of what you

believe are the most important aspects of the readings as well as your reactions, critiques, disagreements, and / or questions. There are 4 requirements for the weekly reaction papers

- they should be completed **10 am Tuesday morning before the class**
- post entries on the discussion section of classes v2
- read all the other entries and be prepared to discuss your thoughts and response to classmates' responses in class
- email paper to me as an attachment
 - **DO NOT FORGET NAME ON PAPER.**

3) Write a 20-25 page final research paper (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins). Final papers are due May 5th, 2008. This paper will be worth 40% of your grade.

There are four requirements and deadlines related to the research paper:

- Meet with the professor at least once during the semester to discuss your topic and plans for the term project, paper, and presentation, before spring break, March 10th
- Write a one paragraph summary of your topic and list 10 sources for paper, due March 25th
- Present your project to the class. April 15 or 23
- Complete your final paper, due May 5th

PDFs: All articles that are available as pdfs are on classes server v2

TEXT BOOKS:

Pellow, David N. 2007. *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements For Environmental Justice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

McGurty, Eileen. 2007. *Transforming Environmentalism: Warren County, PCBs, and the Origins of Environmental Justice*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press

These books can be purchased on Amazon for \$25 and \$42. If you do not have a credit card, you can give me the cash and I will do the ordering.

Course Schedule

Week 1: January 14th

Introductory lecture and open discussion on our current understanding of environmental justice.

January 20th

Barak Obama's inauguration speech. Pay close attention, and look for themes and connections to history and matters of race and class.

Week 2: January 21st

Transforming Environmentalism in the US and Globally

McCarthy, Eileen. 2007. Chapters 1 and 3 in *Transforming Environmentalism: Warren County, PCBs and the Origins of Environmental Justice*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, pp 1-20, 50-80. Text Book.

Pellow, David N. 2007. Chapter 1 in *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements For Environmental Justice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp. 1-37. Text Book.

Lubchenco, Jane. 1998. "Entering the Century of the Environment: A New Social Contract for Science." *Science* 279: 491-497.

95 Pages

Week 3: January 28th

The Rise of Environmental Justice: Critical Framing of the Movement

Pellow, David N. 2007. Chapter 2 in *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements For Environmental Justice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp. 37-70. Text Book.

Morello-Frosch, Rachel. 2002. "Discrimination and the Political Economy of Environmental Inequality." *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy* 20: 477-496.

Talyor, Doreceta. 2000. "The Rise of the Environmental Justice Paradigm: Injustice Framing and the Social Construction of Environmental Discourses," *American Behavioral Scientist* 43(4): 508-566.

110 pages

Week 4: February 4th
Race versus Class

Gladwell, Malcolm. 1996. "Black Like Them". *The New Yorker*. April 29, 1996.

McIntosh, P. 1988. "White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming To See Correspondences through Work in Women's Studies". Working Paper 189. Wellesley College Center for Research on Women.

Downey, Liam. 2005. "The Unintended Significance of Race: Environmental Racial Inequality in Detroit." *Social Forces*, 83(3): 971-1008.

Pulido, Laura. 2000. "Rethinking Environmental Racism: White Privilege and Urban Development in Southern California." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90(1): 12-40.

83 pages

Week 5: February 11th
Scales of Analysis

Pellow, David N. 2007. Chapter 3 in *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements For Environmental Justice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp. 73-95. Text Book.

Corburn, Jason. 2007. "Community Knowledge in Environmental Health Science: Co-producing Policy Expertise." *Environmental Science and Policy* 10: 150-161.

Williams, B. 2002. "A River Runs Through Us." *American Anthropologist* 103(2): 409-431.

Noonan, D. 2008. "Evidence of Environmental Justice: A Critical Perspective on the Practice of EJ Research and Lessons for Policy Design." *Social Science Quarterly* 89 (5): 1153-1174.

75 pages

**Week 6: February 18th
Reviewing the Evidence**

Pellow, David N. 2007. Chapter 4 in *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements For Environmental Justice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp. 96-146. Text Book.

Bowen, William. 2002. "An Analytical Review of Environmental Justice Research: What do we really know?" *Environmental Management* 29 (1): 3-15.

Mohai, P. and R. Saha. 2006. "Reassessing Racial and Socio-Economic Disparities in Environmental Justice Research." *Demography* 43(2): 383-399.

Maantay, J. 2007. "Asthma and Air Pollution in the Bronx: Methodological and Data Considerations in using GIS for Environmental Justice and Health Research". *Health and Place* 13: 32-56.

102 pages

**Week 7: February 25th
Environmental Justice Advocacy and Practice**

Kellogg, Wendy A., and Anjali Mathur. 2003 "Environmental Justice and Information Technologies: Overcoming the Information-Access Paradox in Urban Communities." *Public Administration Review* 63(5): 573-585.

Illsley, Barbara M. 2002. "Good Neighbor Agreements: The First Step to

Environmental Justice?' *Local Environment* 7(1): 69-79.

Checker, Melissa. 2002. "It's in the Air": Redefining the Environment as a New Metaphor for Old Social Justice Struggles." *Human Organization*. 61(1): 94-105.

Minkler et al. 2008. "Promoting Environmental Justice through Community-Based Participatory Research: The Role of Community and Partnership Capacity". *Health, Education and Behavior* 35(1): 119-137.

McCarthy, Eileen. 2007. Chapters 4 in *Transforming Environmentalism: Warren County, PCBs and the Origins of Environmental Justice*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, pp 81-110. Text Book.

Check out:

<http://www.weact.org/Programs/EJAdvocacyGovtAccountability/tabid/192/Default.aspx>

Website for We Act

103 pages

**Week 8: March 4th
Government Response to Hurricane Katrina**

Colten, Craig E. 2007. "Environmental Justice in a Landscape of Tragedy". *Technology in Society* 29: 173-179.

Kristin E. Henkel, J. Dovidio, S., Gaertner. 2006. "Institutional Discrimination, Individual Racism, and Hurricane Katrina". *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, 6(1): 99-124.

Muñiz, Brenda 2006. "In the Eye of the Storm: How the Government and Private Response to Hurricane Katrina Failed Latinos". White Paper, *National Council of La Raza*: 1-23.

57 Pages

*****MARCH 10TH -23RD SPRING BREAK*****

Week 9: March 25th
Climate Change and Environmental Injustice

Ikeme, Jekwu. 2003. "Equity, Environmental Justice and Sustainability: Incomplete Approaches in Climate Change Politics." *Global Environmental Change* 13: 195-206.

Page, Edward. 2007. "Fairness on the Day after Tomorrow: Justice, Reciprocity and Global Climate Change." *Political Studies* 55: 225-243.

Roberts J.T. and B. Parks. 2007. Chapter 5 "Fueling Injustice: Emissions, Development Paths, and Responsibilities". *A Climate of Injustice: Global Inequalities, North-South Politics, and Climate Policy*. Boston: MIT Press, pp. 133-185.

Thomas, D. and C. Twyman. 2005. "Equity and Justice in Climate Change Adaptation Amongst Natural-Resource-Dependent Societies". *Global Environmental Change* 15: 115-124.

88 pages

Week 10: April 1st
Exporting Injustice

Pellow, David N. 2007. Chapter 6 in *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements For Environmental Justice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp. 185-224. Text Book.

Langewiesche, William. 2000. "The Shipbreakers." *Atlantic Monthly*. August, 4-part article, 25 pages.

Adeola, Francis. 2000. "Cross-national Environmental Injustice and Human Rights Issues: A Review of Evidence in the Developing World." *The American Behavioral Scientist* 43(4): 686-706.

Yang, Tseming. 2003. "Of Borders, Fences, and Global Environmentalism." *Chicago Journal of International Law* 4(1): 237-244.

99 pages

Week 11: April 8th

Poverty and Protected Area Management and Concluding thoughts

Peluso, Nancy Lee, "Coercing Conservation?: The Politics of State Resource Control" *Global Environmental Change* 3(2) (June): 199-218.

Brockington, Dan, R. Duffy and J. Igoe. 2008. Chapter 3: "The Imperatives for Conservation", pp. 47-62 in *Nature Unbound: Conservation, Capitalism and the Future of Protected Areas*. London: EarthScan.

Dowie, Mark. 2005. "Conservation Refugees: When Protecting Nature Means Kicking People Out". *Orion* November/December 2005, 8 pages.

Pellow, David N. 2007. Chapter 7 in *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements For Environmental Justice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, pp 225-243. Text Book.

McMurthy, Eileen. 2007. Chapters 5 in *Transforming Environmentalism: Warren County, PCBs and the Origins of Environmental Justice*. New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, pp 111-142. Text Book.

81 pages

Week 12, April 15th and Week 13 April 22nd

Presentations of research papers

FINAL PAPERS DUE MAY 5th: Hardcopies delivered to my office; also send email attachments as backup.

**MAKE SURE to add names and page numbers.
Can you believe I even need to say it!!**