

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

POSC 212

Winter 2021

Kim Smith

Class meets: 4a

Office: 106a Goodsell

Office Hours: MWF 9-11 am or by appointment

The environmental justice movement seeks greater participation by marginalized communities in environmental policy, and equity in the distribution of environmental harms and benefits. This course will examine the meaning of “environmental justice,” the history of the movement, the empirical foundation for the movement’s claims, and specific policy questions. Although environmental justice is a transnational movement, our primary focus is the United States.

This course satisfies the Social Inquiry, QRE, and Intercultural Domestic Studies curricular requirements.

Required Texts:

- McGurty, Eileen. *Transforming Environmentalism*
- Bullard, Robert. *Dumping in Dixie*, 3rd ed. Boulder: Westview Press, 2000.
- Lerner, Steve. *Diamond*. MIT Press, 2005 .
- Other readings posted on moodle

Assessment:

Paper #1: 30%

Paper #2: 30%

Group case study project: 30%

Participation: 10%

COURSE OUTLINE

Week One: Online

Class 1: Introduction

Watch: Introduction to Environmental Justice

Case Studies of Environmental (In)Justice

Class 2: Foundations of Environmental Injustice

Cole and Foster, *From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of Environmental Justice Movement*. Ch. 2-3

Watch: American Apartheid & Structural Racism

Class 3: History of the Environmental Justice Movement
McGurty, *Transforming Environmentalism*, ch. 1-2
Smith, Case Studies: An Introduction

Class 4: McGurty, *Transforming Environmentalism*, ch. 3-4

Class 5: McGurty, *Transforming Environmentalism*, ch. 5-end.

Class 6: Bullard, *Dumping in Dixie*, Ch 1, 3,4

Class 7: Lerner, *Diamond*, Ch 1-6

Class 8: Lerner, *Diamond*, Ch. 7-11

Class 9: Lerner, *Diamond*, Ch. 12 to end

Class 10: Designing Good Case Studies [on Zoom]
Case Studies: An Introduction (again)

What Is “Justice”?

Class 11: Justice and collective responsibility
Smith, Kimberly, “Theories of Justice: An Introduction”
Mini-assignment #1

*****Case study research protocol due Thursday Jan. 28 at 5:00 pm, on moodle*****

Class 12: Cont.

*****First peer evaluations for group project due by class time on Friday Jan. 29*****

Class 13: Environmental and racial justice
Schlosberg, “The Justice of Environmental Justice,” in *Moral and Political Reasoning in Environmental Practice*, ed. Light & de-Shalit
Taylor, “Women of Color, Environmental Justice, and Ecofeminism,” pp. 38-39, 59-66 (in *K. Warren, Ecofeminism* (Indiana U Press 1997))

Class 14: Restorative Justice and Collective Responsibility
Walker, “Restorative Justice and Reparations,” *J. Soc Phil* Fall 2006, pp. 382-389
Kukathas, “Who? Whom? Reparations and the Problem of Agency,” *J. Soc. Phil*, pp. 331-340
Moltchanova, Anna “Gulf Coast Crisis: National Identity and Collective responsibility”

Class 15: Environmentalism and EJ

DeLuca, Kevin. A Wilderness Environmentalism Manifesto. From *Environmental Justice and Environmentalism: the Social Justice Challenge to the Environmental Movement*. MIT Press.

*****Paper #1 due Friday Feb 5 at 9:00 AM, on moodle*****

*****BREAK*****

Quantitative Approaches to EJ (QRE section)

Class 16: What is an Unequal Spatial Distribution?

Mini-assignment #2

Class 17: cont.

Bullard, *Dumping in Dixie*, ch. 2, 5

Class 18: cont.

Cutter, Susan, Issues in Environmental Justice; Role of Geographic Scale in Monitoring Environmental Justice [from *Hazards, Vulnerability and Environmental Justice*]

Class 19: UCC study, Toxic Wastes and Race

Bullard et al, Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty: 1987-2007, ch. 3,4 & Methods
Appendix

Class 20: Social Vulnerability

Cutter, Susan. The Geography of Social Vulnerability: Race, Class and Catastrophe
Cutter et. Al., Social Vulnerability to Environmental Hazards
Mini-assignment #3

Applying the EJ framework

Class 21: Fukushima case study: Can the EJ framework apply to Japan?

Shrader-Frechette, *Nuclear Catastrophe, Disaster Related Environmental Injustice, and Fukushima, Japan*

Aldrich " Networks of power: institutions and local residents in post-Tohoku Japan" (in Natural Disaster and Nuclear Crisis in Japan, ed. Kingston 2012)

Watch: The Fukushima Disaster

*****Paper #2 due Monday Feb. 22 at 9:00 AM, on moodle*****

Class 22: Flint Water Crisis

"The science behind the Flint water crisis: corrosion of pipes, erosion of trust,"
[Conversation blogpost by Terese Olson](#) (Civil engineering, UM-Ann Arbor)

“Flint’s water crisis is a blatant example of environmental injustice,” [Conversation blogpost by Robert Bullard](#) (Texas Southern University)

“Flint’s Water Crisis is no accident.” Lederman, from In These Times.

Class 23: COVID and Environmental Justice

Roundtable on the Pandemics of Racism, Environmental Injustice, and COVID-19 in America, with Robert Bullard, Jacqui Patterson, and Stephen Thomas, *Env. Justice* 13:56-64 (Nov. 2020).

Class 24: EJ and Native Americans

Hernandez, *Indigenizing Environmental Justice: Case Studies from the Pacific Northwest*, *Env Justice* 12:175-181 (2019).

Watch: River of Renewal

*****First Draft of Case Study to be posted on moodle forum Tuesday March 2 at 5:00 PM.*****

Class 25: Cont.

Robyn, *Environmental Racism: Contaminated Water in Indigenous and Minority Communities*, in *Indigenous Environmental Justice*, ed. K. Jarratt-Snyder & M.O. Neilsen (Univ. of Arizona Press, 2020).

*****Second peer evals due by class time on Wednesday March 3**

Class 26: Case study workshop [on Zoom]

EJ and the Arts

Class 27: The Poetics of Environmental Justice

Patterson, *We Know This Place*

Mos Def, *New World Water*

West, *Diamonds from Sierra Leone Remix*

Prolific the Rapper X A Tribe Called Red, *Black Snakes*

Mini-assignment #4

Class 28: Conclusion: Discussion of case studies

*****Final draft of Papers #1 and #2 due Wed. March 10 at 9:00 AM, on moodle**

*****Case study due Saturday March 13 at noon on moodle, and final peer evaluations due Saturday at noon as well*****