

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE  
POSC 212  
Winter 2022  
Kim Smith  
Class meets: 4a in Leighton 236  
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*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Boulder: Westview Press, 2000.
- Lerner, Steve. *Diamond*. MIT Press, 2005 .
- Other readings posted on moodle

**Assessment:**

Assignment #1: 25%

Assignment #2: 30%

Group case study project: 35%

Participation: 10%

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Week One:

**Class 1:** 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

**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 1-8

**Class 8:** Lerner, *Diamond*, Ch. 9-13

**Class 9:** Lerner, *Diamond*, Ch. 14-end

**\*\*\*Assignment #1 due Monday Jan 24 at 9:00 AM on moodle\*\*\***

**Class 10:** Case Studies: An Introduction (again)

**\*\*\*Case study research protocol due by 9 AM Fri Jan 28, on moodle\*\*\***

**\*\*\*First peer evaluations for group project due by 9 AM Fri Jan 28 (link is on moodle)\*\*\***

### **What Is “Justice”?**

**Class 11:** Justice and collective responsibility  
Smith, Kimberly, “Theories of Justice: An Introduction”

**Class 12:** Cont.

**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”

**\*\*\*BREAK\*\*\***

### **Quantitative Approaches to EJ (QRE section)**

**Class 15: No Class:** Group meetings with Kim on Wed & Thurs, Feb 9-10

**Class 16:** What is an Unequal Spatial Distribution?

**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

### **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

**\*\*\*Assignment #2 due Wed Feb. 23 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

**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).

**\*\*\*First Draft of Case Study to be posted on moodle forum Friday March 4 at 9:00 AM.\*\*\***

**\*\*\*Second peer evals due Friday March 4 at 9:00 AM\*\*\***

**Class 26:** Case study workshop

**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

**Class 28:** Conclusion: Discussion of case studies

**\*\*\*Final draft of Assignment #2 due Fri. March 11 at 9:00 AM, on moodle**

**\*\*\*Case study due Monday March 14 at noon on moodle\*\*\***

**\*\*\*Final peer evaluations due Monday March 14 at noon (link on moodle)\*\*\***