

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

PHIL 6750.001

SPRING 2011

WEDNESDAY 6:00-8:50

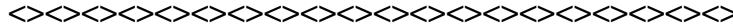
Language Building 216



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Course Description:

Over recent decades, the merging of civil rights and environmental concerns has generated the Environmental Justice Movement. Led primarily by people of color, women, and the blue collar sectors of society, (often times individuals from all three social groups), the Environmental Justice Movement now marks a worldwide grassroots effort for social justice. The movement's momentum and growth has expanded from relatively new, both politically and academically, to more lasting and even global implications. Academically, it has given rise to what is appropriately called "environmental justice studies." This course represents an effort to critically engage the Environmental Justice Movement by studying its histories, the terms and concepts evolving from the movement, the philosophical implications of the movement, and the struggles of people shaping the movement.

The course opens with an exploration of the roots of environmental justice in the United States. This section helps us to develop a vocabulary to interpret theories and dimensions of social justice that are informed by individual and collective environmental values. We will also study the underlying notions of environmental goods and harms, the perspectives of environmental law and policy, and the politics of environmental identities. Then we look at a wide-range of topics pertaining to environmental racism and other forms of environmental discrimination in the U.S. Inherently connected to these domestic topics are issues of environmental equity, environmental classism, discriminatory environmentalism, the politics of race and racism, grassroots politics, and gender politics. From the U.S. movement we can then study international and global forms of environmental justice. Concepts and goals of sustainability, biodiversity, and internationalizing environmental management—from the 1992 'Earth Summit' in Rio de Janeiro to its subsequent 2002 conference in Johannesburg. We will explore the dimensions of economic/developmental conflicts between the global North and South, rights of indigenous peoples, and examples of grassroots movements around the world. Part of our exploration of these issues will be studying the procedures and ways in which environmental policies are instituted, as well as the roles of various agencies and organizations in establishing international laws and policies. We will also be extending our analysis of race theory and cultural politics to the global arena.

The course will concentrate on an interdisciplinary approach to theories and their explanatory force. The course utilizes environmental studies, race theory and ethnic studies, literary and media studies, sociology, philosophy, policy analysis, political science, international affairs, economics, and feminist theory. The theoretical approaches of these different disciplines will receive philosophical scrutiny and attention, in order to indulge our own theory building. Therefore, you must be willing to engage in critical, open-minded discourse, both at the abstract level of theory and the practical level of cases. We must be willing to question our own assumptions and be permitted to respectfully challenge the views of others as a means to develop our own philosophy of environmental justice.

Course Requirements/Evaluation Methods:

The following course requirements indicate the major percentage scores for the course and presume students will always meet the reading requirements. NOTE: Failure to meet any of the following four requirements will automatically restrict the student from achieving an “A” in the course; failure to meet two requirements is a restriction from “B”. General evaluation methods for each requirement are also provided below.

1. *Devoted Attendance and Preparation for Full Participation (10%)*. Students are expected to be engaged with a capacity to discuss all readings required to the class date and ability to refer to relevant points in readings.
 - ❖ Miscellaneous. Random assignments, such as devising questions for a course, highlighting and analyzing particular aspects of readings, and other preparation exercises will be given over the course of the semester. Such assignments will provide a basis for participation and proof of students pacing with the reading calendar.
 - ❖ Requirement evaluated according to a student’s attendance and contribution to the class discussion, ability to respond to the comments of professor and other students, and engagement with reading/miscellaneous assignments.
2. *Book Review (20%)*. A review of a book on environmental justice (preferably published recently) that provides a synopsis, evaluation/comparison with other environmental justice literature, and a constructive critique of the merits and issues found in the text.
 - ❖ Requirement evaluated according to clarity of writing, synopsis, and critique. Further details will be provided with the specific assignment outline; however, the model is a book review in a published journal. Style of the individual book review will therefore be expected to follow the respective journal “instructions to authors” and journal style. And, be a clean enough draft that it could be a publishable review.
3. *Partner Presentation of Case/Theory (20%)*. Students will work with a partner to research an environmental justice case of their selection and provide an in-class, hour-long presentation on the case and its implications for environmental justice studies.
 - ❖ Requirement evaluated according to general factors, such as partner solidarity on time, content, and presentation commitment; theoretical depth and relevance; accuracy and relevance of case details; overall method and means of presentation, including effective question and answer exchange with the class. Further details will be provided with the specific assignment outline.
4. *Final Term Paper (50%)*. 17-23 page paper will be expected at the end of the semester. This term paper will require philosophical/theoretical approach that takes into account a case or cases, in order to reflect the philosophical claims, challenges, and implications. Students are permitted to use any case in this project, including their presentation case (or the cases of other student-presentations).
 - ❖ Requirement evaluated according to clarity of writing, organization of paper, philosophical/theoretical analysis, and applicability/accuracy of case analysis. General merit for the paper is an “A” grade for publishable quality, “B” for meeting the requirements of the paper and providing indication of a sophistication reflective of a philosophical/theoretical approach to the subject-matter (but not of publishable quality), and anything failing to meet any single conditions of the “B” grade (requirements, sophistication of philosophical/theoretical analysis) will be graded “C”.

Course Material:

1. Course readings and materials will be provided on the Blackboard site assigned to the class.
2. Texts for Book Review requirement will be acquired by the student (purchase/library loan).
3. Other materials, events, and media will be used during the semester; including film, broadcasts, guest speakers, and conference calls with environmental justice organizations.

Semester’s Calendar:

Dates indicate when reading is due. This is a tentative reading schedule that may include additions from the professor or fellow students (perhaps in preparation for partner presentations) and the calendar may be subject to alteration if deemed necessary to accommodate the class.

Date and Topics	Readings Due
<p><u>January 19, Wednesday</u> Course Introduction.</p> <p>Conference Call with Center for Health, Environment, and Justice.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. EPA <i>Guidelines on School Siting</i> 1. Excerpts from Lois Gibbs, <i>Love Canal...The Story Continues</i> (Boston: South End Press 1999). 2. Gabriel Gutierrez, “Mothers of East LA Strike Back,” from <i>Unequal Protection</i> edited by Robert Bullard, (Sierra Club Books, 1997), pp.220-233
<p><u>January 26, Wednesday</u> Conference Call with Center for Health, Environment, and Justice.</p> <p>The U.S. movement. The rise of the environmental racism debate.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Robert Melchior Figueroa , "Environmental Justice" from <i>The Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy</i> edited by J. Baird Callicott & Robert Frodeman, (New York: Cengage, 2008), pp.341-348. 2. United Church of Christ, <i>Toxic Wastes and Race</i>, (1987). United Church of Christ, <i>Toxic Wastes and Race, Revisited</i>, (1992). United Church of Christ, <i>Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty: 1987-2007</i>. 3. Paul Mohai and Bunyan Bryant, “Demographic Studies Reveal a Pattern of Environmental Injustice” from <i>Environmental Justice: At Issue</i>, edited by Jonathan S. Petrikin, (San Diego: Greenhaven Press Inc., 1995), pp.10-23. 4. Douglas Anderton, et al., “Studies Used to Prove Charges of Environmental Racism are Flawed” from <i>Environmental Justice: At Issue</i>, edited by Jonathan S. Petrikin, (San Diego: Greenhaven Press Inc., 1995), pp.24-37. 5. Vicki Been, “Market Forces, Not Racist Practices, May Affect the Siting of Locally Undesirable Land Uses” from <i>Environmental Justice: At Issue</i>, edited by Jonathan S. Petrikin, (San Diego: Greenhaven Press Inc., 1995), pp.38-59. 6. Robert Bullard, “A New Chicken-or-Egg Debate: Which Comes First - The Neighborhood, or the Toxic Dump?” from <i>The Workbook</i>, Vol. 19, No. 2, Summer 1994, pp.60-62. 7. Peter S. Wenz, “Just Garbage,” <i>Faces of Environmental Racism: Confronting Issues of Global Justice, 2nd Edition</i>, edited by Laura Westra and Bill Lawson, (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002). 8. Christopher Boerner & Thomas Lambert, “Environmental Justice Can Be Achieved Through Negotiated Compensation” from <i>Environmental Justice: At Issue</i>, edited by Jonathan S. Petrikin, (San Diego: Greenhaven Press Inc., 1995), pp.85-99.
<p><u>February 2, Wednesday</u> Conference Call with Center for Health, Environment, and Justice.</p> <p>Paradigms of justice in the</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Charles Mills, “Black Trash” from <i>Faces of Environmental Racism: Confronting Issues of Global Justice, 2nd Edition</i>, edited by Laura Westra and Bill Lawson, (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002), pp.73-91. 2. Excerpts from Luke Cole and Sheila Foster, <i>From the Ground Up</i> (New York: NYU Press, 2001). 3. Christain Hunold & Iris Young, “Justice, Democracy, and Hazardous

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<p>environmental racism context. Ethnicity and the political economy of environmental racism.</p>	<p>Siting” from <i>Political Studies</i> (1998), XLVI, 82-95.</p> <p>4. Robert Melchior Figueroa, “Bivalent Environmental Justice and the Culture of Poverty, <i>Rutgers University Journal of Law and Urban Policy</i>, pp. 27-42.</p>
<p>February 9, Wednesday Conference Call with Center for Health, Environment, and Justice.</p> <p>An alternative history of U.S. environmentalism, Latinos/as and environmental justice, and centrality of women.</p> <p>Emergence of environmental identity and environmental heritage.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Principles of Environmental Justice</i> 2. Devon Peña, “Endangered Landscapes and Disappearing Peoples?: Identity, Place, and Community in Ecology Politics,” from <i>The Environmental Justice Reader</i>, edited by Joni Adamson, Mei Mei Evans, and Rachel Stein, (Tucson: University of Arizona Press), pp.58-81. 3. Robert Melchior Figueroa, “Other Faces: Latinos and Environmental Justice” from <i>Faces of Environmental Racism: Confronting Issues of Global Justice, 2nd Edition</i>, edited by Laura Westra and Bill Lawson, (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2002), pp.167-184. 4. Robert Gottlieb, “Urban and Industrial Roots: Seeking to Reform the System” Chapter 2 from his <i>Forcing the Spring: The Transformation of the American Environmental Movement</i>, (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 1993). 5. Excerpts from Lois Gibbs, <i>Love Canal....The Story Continues</i> (Boston: South End Press 1999). 6. Celene Krauss, “Blue-Collar Women and Toxic Waste Protests” from <i>Toxic Struggles: The Theory and Practice of Environmental Justice</i>, edited by Richard Hofrichter, (Philadelphia, New Society Publishers: 1993), pp.107-117. 7. Joni Adamson, “Throwing Rocks at the Sun: An Interview with Teresa Leal,” from <i>The Environmental Justice Reader</i>, edited by Joni Adamson, Mei Mei Evans, and Rachel Stein, (Tucson: University of Arizona Press), pp. 44-57.
<p>February 16, Wednesday</p> <p>Philosophy and extending environmental justice studies.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Robert Melchior Figueroa, “Evaluating Environmental Justice Claims,” from <i>Forging Environmentalism</i>, edited by Joanne Bauer, (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe), pp. 360-376. 2. <i>Journal of Environmental Philosophy: Special Issue—Ecotourism and Environmental Justice</i>, 7 (2) Fall 2010.
<p>February 23, Wednesday</p> <p>Issues in global environmental justice: Part I, Sustainable Development and Environmental Justice.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Excerpts from <i>Stockholm Conference; Brundtland Report (Our Common Future); Earth Summits –Rio(1992), Johannesburg 2002); and For Earth’s Sake</i> (a separate file on the 2008 website). 2. Dale Jamieson, “Global Environmental Justice.” 3. Wolfgang Sachs, "Global Ecology and the Shadow of Development" from <i>Global Ecology: A New Arena of Political Conflict</i>, edited by Wolfgang Sachs, (Atlantic Heights: Humanity Press, 1993). 4. Thomas Pogge, “The Moral Demands of Global Justice,” from <i>Dissent</i>, Fall 2000, pp. 37-48. 5. Robert Melchior Figueroa, “Evaluating Environmental Justice Claims,” from <i>Forging Environmentalism</i>, edited by Joanne Bauer, (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe), pp. 360-376.
<p>March 2, Wednesday</p> <p>Going global. Development dilemmas and the ‘world’ of environmental justice.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Excerpts from <i>Stockholm Conference; Brundtland Report (Our Common Future); Earth Summits –Rio(1992), Johannesburg 2002); and For Earth’s Sake</i> (a separate file on the 2008 website). 2. Dale Jamieson, “Global Environmental Justice.” 3. Wolfgang Sachs, "Global Ecology and the Shadow of Development" from <i>Global Ecology: A New Arena of Political Conflict</i>, edited by Wolfgang

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	<p>Sachs, (Atlantic Heights: Humanity Press, 1993).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Thomas Pogge, "The Moral Demands of Global Justice," from <i>Dissent</i>, Fall 2000, pp. 37-48. 5. Robert Melchior Figueroa, "Evaluating Environmental Justice Claims," from <i>Forging Environmentalism</i>, edited by Joanne Bauer, (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe), pp. 360-376. 6. <i>Journal of Environmental Philosophy</i>: Special Issue—Ecotourism and Environmental Justice, 7 (2) Fall 2010.
<p><u>March 9, Wednesday</u> Environmental justice scholars meet sustainability scholarship.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Excerpts from Kristin Shrader-Frechette, <i>Environmental Justice</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005). 2. Duncan McLaren, "Environmental Space, Equity and the Ecological Debt," from <i>Just Sustainabilities</i>, edited by Julian Agyeman, Robert Bullard, and Bob Evans, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press).
<p><u>March 16, Wednesday</u> <u>Spring Break</u></p>	
<p><u>March 23, Wednesday</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation: Double Diversion in EJ-Jen/Glen 2. Excerpts from Kristin Shrader-Frechette, <i>Environmental Justice</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).
<p><u>March 30, Wednesday</u> (Central APA)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Excerpts from Kristin Shrader-Frechette, <i>Environmental Justice</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).
<p><u>April 6, Wednesday</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation: E-Waste-Lauren/Sarah 2. Excerpts from Kristin Shrader-Frechette, <i>Environmental Justice</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).
<p><u>April 13, Wednesday</u> (ASEH Conference)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Excerpts from Kristin Shrader-Frechette, <i>Environmental Justice</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).
<p><u>April 15, Friday</u></p>	<p>Book Reviews Due: mail electronically to Figueroa on WebCT Blackboard.</p>
<p><u>April 20, Wednesday</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation 2. Presentation
<p><u>April 27, Wednesday</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation: Recent Development in Gas Drilling Presentation: Dallas Water Export (Mount Pleasant)
<p><u>May 4, Wednesday</u></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Presentation: Trinity River Development 2. Presentation
<p>FINAL PAPER DUE: <u>Thursday May 12</u></p>	