

Environmental Inequality & Justice
Sociology 7933 Section 7800
3 Credits

University of Florida
Department of Sociology

Turlington Hall 3102
Wednesdays 7-9

Instructor: Professor Brian Mayer
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Course Description and Purpose

This course is a critical examination of the relationships between social inequalities and the distribution of environmental hazards in our society. Using examples drawn from the U.S. and internationally, this course presents empirical evidence of the unequal distributions of environmental quality and hazards along the dimensions of power, class, and race. We will explore and critically analyze the philosophies and frameworks for understanding the emergence of environmental inequalities in African American, Latino, Native American, Asian American, and indigenous communities. In addition to examining the evidence of environmental inequality, we will consider methodological debates in the measurement of environmental justice through both quantitative and qualitative case studies. Finally, we will consider the formation of the movement for environmental justice and its impact on policy, the broader environmental movement, and social change.

This course seeks to provide students with an in-depth understanding of both environmental inequality and environmental justice, which we will treat as very discrete concepts. In reading the earliest reports on environmental inequality alongside contemporary research, this course will compare the roots of environmental justice thinking with today's reflections on where the study of environmental inequality and the movement for environmental justice is leading us.

Requirements

Research Proposal

Instead of requiring students to develop and conduct a piece of independent research on a topic related to environmental inequality, we will be developing research proposals. Students will identify a topic of inquiry and present their overall topic and outline in the form of a project prospectus by the third week of class. I will work with

each student to develop their topic. Proposals will follow the model of a traditional thesis or grant proposal and contain sections for each of the following: introduction, background, literature review, research questions, methods, and expected results.

Project Prospectus: September 10th
Research Questions (Hypothesis): September 24th
Literature Review: October 29th
Methods: November 12th

Final Proposal: December 10th

Reaction Papers

Students are responsible for preparing a one page paper on each of weeks' reading. Reaction papers are not summaries of the week's readings. We will be reviewing most of the readings in class. Instead, you are required to engage with the reading and respond with a question or comment of your in the Reaction Paper. Examples including disagreeing with a reading's conclusion, where you present your argument followed by your reasoning why in the paper. Reaction Papers are to brought with you to class.

Presentation

Students will present their research proposal in the final weeks of the course. Students will be assigned fifteen minutes to review their research ideas, literature review, proposed methods, and anticipated findings. A brief question and answer session will follow.

Participation

Students are required to participate and occasionally lead discussion. Based on the number of the students attending the course, we will divide several of the readings up and their discussions will be led by a particular student, or group of students.

Grading

Research Proposal	
Prospectus:	5%
Research Questions:	5%
Literature Review:	10%
Methods:	10%
Final Proposal:	25%
Final Presentation:	5%
Reaction Papers:	30%
Participation:	10%

Required Readings (Available at the University Bookstore):

- Gedicks, Al. 2001. *Resource Rebels: Native Challenges to Mining and Oil Companies*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press.
- Pellow, David. N. 2007. *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements for Environmental Justice*. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Pulido, Laura. 1996. *Environmentalism and Economic Justice: Two Chicano Struggles in the Southwest*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.
- Roberts, J. Timmons and Melissa Toffolon-Weiss. 2001. *Chronicles from the Environmental Justice Frontline*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Smith, Ted, Sonnenfeld, David, and David N. Pellow. 2006. *Challenging the Chip: Labor Rights and Environmental Justice in the Global Electronics Industry*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

All other readings are available online or will be provided by the instructor.

Course Schedule

Week One (8/27/08) Introduction

- General Accounting Office. 1983. "Siting of Hazardous Waste Landfills and their Correlation with Racial and Economic Status of Surrounding Communities." Washington, D.C.
- Lee, Charles. 1992. "Toxics Waste and Race in the United States." Pp. 10-27 in Bunyan Bryant and Paul Mohai (eds) *Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards: A Time for Discourse*. Boulder: Westview Press.
- Bullard, Robert D. 2001. "Environmental Justice in the 21st Century." Available at: <http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/ejinthe21century.htm>
- Principles of Environmental Justice*. 1991. First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit.

Week Two (9/3/08) Environmental Racism

- Freidman, David. 2003. "The Environmental Racism Hoax." American Enterprise Institute.
- Morello-Frosch, Rachel A. 2002. "Discrimination and the political economy of environmental inequality." *Environment & Planning C: Government & Policy* 20: 477-496.
- Park, Lisa Sun-Hee; Pellow, David N. 2004. "Racial Formation, Environmental Racism, and the Emergence of Silicon Valley." *Ethnicities* 4(3): 403-424.
- 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.

Week Three (9/10/08) Theories of Environmental (In)Justice

- Agyeman, Julian, Robert D. Bullard and Bob Evans. 2002. "Exploring the Nexus: Bringing Together Sustainability, Environmental Justice and Equity." *Space & Polity* 6(1): 77-90.
- Capek, Stella M. 1993. "The "Environmental Justice" Frame: A Conceptual Discussion and Application." *Social Problems* 40(1): 5-24.
- Foreman, Christopher. 1998. *The Promise and Peril of Environmental Justice*. Brookings Institution Press. Pp. 1-33.
- Pellow, David N. 2000. "Environmental Inequality Formation: Towards a Theory of Environmental Injustice." *American Behavioral Scientist* 43(4):581-601.
- Szasz, Andrew and Michael Meuser. 1997. "Environmental Inequalities: Literature Review and Proposals for New Directions in Research and Theory." *Current Sociology* 45(3): 99-120.

Week Four (9/17/08) Measuring Environmental Injustice I

- Anderton, Douglas L., Andy B. Anderson, John Michael Oakes, and Michael R. Fraser. 1994. "Environmental Equity: The Demographics of Dumping." *Demography* 31:229-248.
- Davidson, Pamela, and Douglas L. Anderton. 2000. "Demographics of Dumping II: A National Environmental Equity Survey and the Distribution of Hazardous Materials Handlers." *Demography* 37:461-466.
- Mohai, Paul. 1995. "The Demographics of Dumping Revisited: Examining the Impact of Alternate Methodologies in Environmental Justice Research." *Virginia Environmental Law Journal* 14:615-653.
- Pulido, Laura. 1996. "A Critical Review of the Methodology of Environmental Racism Research." *Antipode* 28:142-159.

Week Five (9/24/08) Measuring Environmental Injustice II

- Bowen, William M., and Kingsley E. Haynes. 2000a. "The Debate over Environmental Justice." *Social Science Quarterly (University of Texas Press)* 81:892-894.
- . 2000b. "Response to Downey: Environmental Injustice: Is Race or Income a Better Predictor?" *Social Science Quarterly (University of Texas Press)* 81:885-888.
- Bullard, Robert D., Paul Mohai, Robin Saha, and Beverly Wright. 2007. "Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty: 1987-2007: Struggles to Dismantle Environmental Racism in the United States." United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries.
Chapters 3 & 4

- Downey, Liam. 1998. "Environmental Injustice: Is Race or Income a Better Predictor?" *Social Science Quarterly (University of Texas Press)* 79:766-778.
- . 2000. "Response to Comments by William M. Bowen and Kingsley E. Haynes." *Social Science Quarterly (University of Texas Press)* 81:889-891.
- Mohai, Paul and Robin Saha. 2006. "Racial Inequality in the Distribution of Hazardous Waste: A National-Level Reassessment." *Social Problems* 54(3): 343-370.

Week Six (10/1/08) Environmental Injustice in Latino Communities

- Pulido, Laura. 1996. *Environmentalism and Economic Justice: Two Chicano Struggles in the Southwest*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

Week Seven (10/8/08) Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender

- Morello-Frosch Rachel. 1997. "The Politics of Reproductive Hazards in the Workplace: Class, Gender, and the History of Occupational Lead Exposure." *International Journal of Health Services* 27(3) 501-521.
- Kurtz, Hilda E. 2007. "Gender and Environmental Justice in Louisiana: Blurring the boundaries of public and private spheres." *Gender, Place and Culture* 14(4): 409-426.

Week Eight (10/15/08) Environmental Injustice in Asian American Communities

- Asian Pacific Environmental Network. "Environmental Justice & API Issues," available at: http://www.apen4ej.org/issues_api.htm
- Brugge, Doug. "Environmental Justice and Asian Americans," Asian American Movement Ezine, available at: <http://www.aamovement.net/community/aej.html>
- Sze, Julie. 2004. "Asian American activism for environmental justice." *Peace Review* 16(2):149-156.
- Tai, Stephanie. 1999. "Environmental Hazards and the Richmond Laotian American Community: A Case Study in Environmental Justice." 6 *Asian Law Journal* pp. 189-207.

Week Nine (10/22/08) Environmental Injustice in Indigenous Communities

- Gedicks, Al. 2001. *Resource Rebels: Native Challenges to Mining and Oil Companies*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press.

Week Ten (10/29/08) Environmental Injustice in the Workplace

Smith, Ted, Sonnenfeld, David, and David N. Pellow. 2006. *Challenging the Chip: Labor Rights and Environmental Justice in the Global Electronics Industry*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.

Week Eleven (11/01/08) The Environmental Justice Movement

Roberts, J. Timmons and Melissa Toffolon-Weiss. 2001. *Chronicles from the Environmental Justice Frontline*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Week Twelve (11/05/08) Environmental Justice and Human Health

Brown, Phil, Steve Kroll-Smith, and Valerie J. Gunter. 2000. "Chapter 1: Knowledge, Citizens, and Organizations: An Overview of Environments, Disease, and Social Conflict." Pp. 9-25 in Kroll-Smith, Steve, Phil Brown, and Valerie J. Gunter (eds) *Illness & Environment: A Reader in Contested Medicine*. New York: NYU Press.

Brown, Phil, Brian Mayer, Stephen Zavestoski, Theo Luebke, Joshua Mandelbaum, and Sabrina McCormick. 2003. "The health politics of asthma: environmental justice and collective illness experience in the United States." *Social Science & Medicine* 57:453.

Brulle, Robert J., and David N. Pellow. 2006. "Environmental Justice: Human Health and Environmental Inequalities." *Annual Review of Public Health* 27:103-124.

Pastor, Manuel, Jr, James L. Sadd, and Rachel Morello-Frosch. 2002. "Who's Minding the Kids? Pollution, Public Schools, and Environmental Justice in Los Angeles." *Social Science Quarterly (Blackwell Publishing Limited)* 83:263.

Wing, Steve, Dana Cole, and Gary Grant. 2000. "Environmental Injustice in North Carolina's Hog Industry." *Environmental Health Perspectives* 108:225.

Week Thirteen (11/12/08) Global Dimensions of Environmental Justice

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

Week Fourteen (11/19/08) Climate Change and Environmental Justice

- Chiro, Giovanna Di. 2008. "Living environmentalisms: coalition politics, social reproduction, and environmental justice." *Environmental Politics* 17(2): 276-298.
- Dorsey, Michael. 2007. "Climate Knowledge and Power: Tales of Skeptic Tanks, Weather Gods, and Sagas for Climate (In)justice," *Capitalism Nature Socialism* 18(2): 7-21.
- Ikeme, Jekwu. 2003. "Equity, environmental justice and sustainability: incomplete approaches in climate change politics." *Global Environmental Change* 13(3): 195-206.
- Hoerner, J. Andrew and Nia Robinson. 2008. "A Climate of Change African Americans, Global Warming, and a Just Climate Policy for the U.S." Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative. Available: <http://www.ejcc.org/climateofchange.pdf>
- Roberts, Timmons J. 2001. "Global Inequality and Climate Change." *Society and Natural Resources* 14: 501-509.

Week Fifteen (11/26/08) No Class

Week Fifteen (12/3/08) Final Presentations

Week Sixteen (12/10/08) Final Presentations (cont'd)