

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## ESPM 163AC AND SOCIOLOGY 128AC

### 3 Units - Fall 2004

#### Lectures:

Monday & Wednesday 1-2 p.m., 159 Mulford

Discussion Sections: Mandatory

CCN: 30721 or 81818

Blackboard Web Site: <http://blackboard.berkeley.edu>

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#### Graduate Student Instructors:

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#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course engages environmental problems, community responses, and policy debates regarding “environmental justice” (EJ) issues – essentially the race, class, and equity implications of environmental problems and regulation. The course presents empirical evidence on distributions of environmental quality and health, enforcement of regulations, access to resources to respond to urban and industrial problems, and the broader political economy of decision-making around environmental and health issues. The course explores and critically analyzes philosophies, frameworks, and strategies underlying environmental justice movements and struggles of African American, Latino American, Asian American, and American Indian communities. The course is organized into five sections: (1) debating environmental justice claims; (2) methods for analyzing environmental, health, and social inequities; (3) cases of environmental injustice; (4) government policies and programs; and (5) community responses and future strategies.

The course seeks to prepare students to critically analyze environmental outcomes and processes, providing frameworks for evaluating the equity implications of environmental policies and programs, and distributions of environmental quality and environmental burdens. Research methods will be assessed throughout the course. Students will also analyze community and government responses to environmental injustices, and critically assess recent strategies to promote more ecologically sound and socially just development.

The course will include cases of environmental problems in communities that are predominantly African American, Latino American, Asian American, and Native American. These cases will be analyzed using social science research methods, and discussed within a broad political economy framework, essentially asking why environmental problems play out differently for different groups, and why some groups are more effective than others in mobilizing to pressure for environmental improvements.

#### **GOALS FOR THE COURSE**

- Develop students’ own definition and theories of environmental justice;
- Analyze institutional processes impacting race, class, and the environment;
- Analyze data on the distributions of environmental quality and demographic trends;
- Analyze government policies related to environmental issues;
- Analyze community and non-governmental strategies to respond to environmental and health problems;
- Engage real cases in the Bay Area related to environmental justice;
- Strengthen critical thinking, writing, and oral presentation skills.

## ASSIGNMENTS

Students will be expected to:

1. Read all of the assigned readings before each lecture for which they are assigned.
2. Actively participate in class discussions in lecture and sections.
3. Group projects
  - a) Write a one-paragraph statement of your term project topic and submit a one-page outline for the project. Due on **October 11<sup>th</sup>**.
  - b) Students will form term project “teams” consisting of 3 to 5 people from your discussion section. The teams will conduct either a “service learning” project with a local non-profit organization or a traditional academic research project analyzing a case of an environmental injustice and employing tools learned in the course. A list of possible service learning projects will be presented to the class on **September 8<sup>th</sup>**. Teams will jointly analyze demographic, environmental, and health data, conduct original interviews, analyze government and community responses, and make recommendations for future policies or programs. The term projects will seek to analyze institutional processes driving the “injustice” and to propose realistic responses to these problems.

The term project can result in one of three products: A traditional term paper (of approximately 30 pages), a web-based project (of equivalent depth), or a product requested by the non-profit organization (such as fact sheets, focus groups, etc.). Students will also write a one-page evaluation of their contribution to the team.

Graduate students should consult with the instructor about conducting a graduate level term project.
  - c) Teams will meet with their GSI at least once during the semester to discuss their plans for the term project. Students will also meet once individually with their GSI to discuss the term project. Term projects will be due in class **December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Late projects will not be accepted.
4. Complete three short individual assignments during the semester. Students will individually:
  - a) Complete a short assignment defining environmental injustice and describing how their racial, socio-economic, and geographic background influenced their exposure to environmental harm and access to environmental benefits. This assignment will be due on **September 20<sup>th</sup>**.
  - b) Complete a quantitative analysis comparing environmental, health, or equity disparities within and between two communities. This assignment will be due on **October 25<sup>th</sup>**.
  - c) Complete a short essay analyzing federal, state, or local government policies related to an EJ case. This assignment will be due on **November 17<sup>th</sup>**.
5. Students will take an in-class final exam. This exam will link the course readings and lectures to experiential learning from the term projects. We will be in Final Exam Group 12: **Friday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 5-8 p.m.**

## 6. Extra Credit Assignments

- a) Students can participate in a half-day field trip to West Oakland. Participants will write a one-page reaction paper following the field trip.
- b) Students can conduct and write up an interview with a community member, staff of a non-profit organization, government official, or business representative.
- c) Students can attend an event, rally, volunteer day, or community meeting sponsored by a local EJ organization, and then write up a one-page reaction paper.
- d) There will also be occasional in-class extra credit opportunities through volunteering to participate in simulations, debates, or short assignments.

### **EVALUATION:**

The course grade will be based on the following activities:

20%	-	Class participation
20%	-	Assignments
40%	-	Term project
20%	-	Final Examination

[Possible Extra Credit points - up to 5%]

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY AND COURSE JUSTICE**

This course is about justice and equity. In that light, and in fairness to students who put in an honest effort, cheaters will be treated very strictly. Any evidence of cheating will result in a score of zero on the assignment. Incidences of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs, which may administer additional punishment.

Plagiarism includes appropriation of whole passages with or without credit, appropriation of words and phrases without credit, appropriation of both main and supporting ideas without credit, and paraphrasing without credit. Plagiarism also includes submitting a paper written by someone else. Ethical research requires that you properly document the sources you use. Even when you do not quote directly from another work, if reading that source contributed to the ideas presented in your paper, you must give the authors proper credit. If you are unsure of how to properly cite sources, ask Professor O'Rourke or your GSI for guidance. Or visit these web sites:

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Citations.html>

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Style.html>

And for information on the UC Berkeley Student Code of Conduct visit:

<http://students.berkeley.edu/sas/conduct.shtml>

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

The readings will be available either in the course reader or on the web. The reader will be on reserve in the CNR Resource Center, 260 Mulford Hall, and in the Biosciences Library.

The reader will also be sold through Odin Readers – available at Ned's on Bancroft.

## SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Readings marked with an (R) are provided in the course reader.  
Readings marked with an (W) are available on the internet.

### Aug 30 - Introduction to the Course

No readings.

### Sept. 1 – Claims of Environmental Injustice

(W) Motavalli, Jim, “Toxic Targets – Polluters that Dump on Communities of Color are Finally Being Brought to Justice,” *E – The Environmental Magazine*, July-August, 12 pages, 1998, available at: [www.emagazine.com/july-august\\_1998/0798feat1.html](http://www.emagazine.com/july-august_1998/0798feat1.html)

(W) Robert D. Bullard “Environmental Justice in the 21st Century,” 2001, available at: <http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/ejinthe21century.htm>

### Sept. 6 – Labor Day Holiday - No Class Today

### Sept. 8 – What is Environmental Injustice?

(R) Institute of Medicine (1999), “Chapter 2: Establishing a Baseline,” in *Toward Environmental Justice: Research, Education, and Health Policy Needs*, Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, pp.: 11-21, 1999.

(R) Pellow, David, “Environmental Inequality Formation: Toward a Theory of Environmental Injustice,” *The American Behavioral Scientist*, vol. 43, no. 4, pp: 581-601, 2000.

### Sept. 13 – What is Environmental Justice?

(R) Shrader-Frechette, Kristen, “Distributive Justice, Participative Justice, and the Principle of Prima Facie Political Equality,” in *Environmental Justice: Creating Equality, Reclaiming Democracy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp.: 23-34, 2002.

(W) People of Color Environmental Justice Summit, “Environmental Justice Principles,” 1991, available at: <http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/princej.html>

### Sept. 15 – Challenging EJ Claims (I)

(W) Friedman, David, “The Environmental Racism Hoax,” American Enterprise Institute, 2003, available at: [http://www.taemag.com/issues/articleid.17116/article\\_detail.asp](http://www.taemag.com/issues/articleid.17116/article_detail.asp)

(R) Foreman, Christopher, *The Promise and Peril of Environmental Justice*, Washington D.C.: Brookings Institution Press, pp.: 1-33, 1998.

### Sept. 20 – Challenging EJ Claims (II)

(R) Oakes, John M., D. Anderton, and A. Anderson, “A Longitudinal Analysis of Environmental Equity in Communities with Hazardous Facilities,” *Social Science Research*, vol. 25, pp.: 125-148, 1996.

(R) Yandle, Tracy and Dudley Burton, “Reexamining Environmental Justice: A Statistical Analysis of Historical Hazardous Waste Landfill Siting Patterns in Metropolitan Texas,” *Social Science Quarterly*, vol. 77, no. 3, pp.: 477-492, 1996.

### **Sept. 22 – Debating the Data**

(R) Been, Vicki, “Locally Undesirable Land Uses in Minority Neighborhoods: Disproportionate Siting or Market Dynamics?” *Yale Law Journal*, vol. 103, no. 6: 1383-1421, 1994.

### **Sept. 27 – Debating Race and Racism in America**

(R) Bobo, Lawrence, “Racial Attitudes and Relations at the Close of the Twentieth Century,” in N. Smelser, W.J. Wilson, and F. Mitchell (eds.) *America Becoming – Racial Trends and their Consequences*, Washington, D.C.: National Research Council, pp.: 264-301, 2001.

(R) Blackwell, Angela, Stewart Kwoh, and Manuel Pastor, “A Changing America” and “Color Lines,” in *Searching for the Uncommon Common Ground – New Dimensions of Race in America*, New York: Norton, pp.: 21-26 and 47-85, 2002.

Visit the Implicit Association Test web site at:

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/demo/selectatest.html>

**GUEST SPEAKER: Taeku Lee, Dept. of Political Science, UC Berkeley**

### **Sept. 29 – Debating Class and Inequality in America**

(R) Economic Policy Institute. “Wealth: Deeper in Debt,” Chapter 4 in *The State of Working America, 2002/2003*, Washington, D.C.: Economic Policy Institute, pp.: 277-307, 2003.

(R) Paul Krugman, “For Richer,” *The New York Times*, Sunday Magazine p. 62, October 20, 2002.

### **Oct. 4 – Measuring Environmental Injustices (I)**

(R) Rhodes, Edwardo Lao, “The Measurement of Environmental Injustice: Some Rules for Engagement,” Chapter 8 in *Environmental Justice in America – A New Paradigm*, Indiana University Press, pp.: 118-136, 2003.

### **Oct. 6 – Measuring Environmental Injustices (II)**

(R) Pulido, Laura, “A Critical Review of the Methodology of Environmental Racism Research,” *Antipode*, vol. 28, no. 2:142-159, 1996.

(R) Pulido, Laura, Steve Sidawi, and Robert Vos, “An Archaeology of Environmental Racism in Los Angeles,” *Urban Geography*, vol. 17, no. 5:419-439, 1996.

### **Oct. 11 – Environmental Injustices in Native American Communities**

(W) International Indian Treaty Council, “Mercury Contamination and Community Health in Northern California,” San Francisco CA, 2003, available at:

[www.treatycouncil.org/MercuryReportLoRez1.pdf](http://www.treatycouncil.org/MercuryReportLoRez1.pdf)

(W) U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, *A Quiet Crisis: Federal Funding and Unmet Needs in Indian Country*, July 2003, Washington, D.C., Chapter 3, pp.: 34-49, available at:

[www.usccr.gov/pubs/na0703/na0731.pdf](http://www.usccr.gov/pubs/na0703/na0731.pdf)

**GUEST SPEAKER: Sherri Norris, International Indian Treaty Council**

### **Oct. 13 – Environmental Injustices in African American Communities**

(W) Sherman, Scott, “Environmental Justice Case Study: West County Toxics Coalition and the Chevron Refinery Richmond, California,” available at:  
<http://www.umich.edu/~snre492/sherman.html>

(W) Trust for America’s Health, “Asthma in Bayview Hunters Point,” 2001, case study available at: <http://healthyamericans.org/docs/index.php?DocID=1>

(W) Pacific Institute and Coalition for West Oakland Revitalization, *Clearing the Air: Reducing Diesel Pollution in West Oakland*, November 2003, available at:  
<http://www.pacinst.org/reports/diesel/>

**GUEST SPEAKERS: Karen Pierce, Bayview-Hunters Point Community Advocates  
Henry Clark, West County Toxics Coalition (invited)**

### **Oct. 18 – Environmental Injustices in Latino Communities**

(W) Marentes, Carlos, “Farm Workers Fight against Environmental Racism and Neo-liberalism,” *Synthesis/Regeneration* 33, Winter 2004, available at: <http://www.greens.org/s-r/33/33-06.html>

(W) Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition (MAC), “The Hidden Costs of the New Economy: A Study of the Northeast Mission Industrial Zone,” San Francisco CA, 2001,  
[http://www.medasf.org/reports/NEMIZ\\_Report.pdf](http://www.medasf.org/reports/NEMIZ_Report.pdf)

(R) Cole, Luke and Sheila Foster, “Buttonwillow,” Chapter 4 in *From the Ground Up*, New York University Press, pp.: 80-102, 2001.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Antonio Diaz, People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights (PODER)**

### **Oct. 20 – Environmental Injustices in Asian American Communities**

(R) Tai, Stephanie, “Environmental Hazards and the Richmond Laotian American Community: A Case Study in Environmental Justice,” 6 *Asian Law Journal*, pp.: 189-207, 1999.

(W) Asian Pacific Environmental Network, “Environmental Justice & API Issues,” available at:  
[http://www.apen4ej.org/issues\\_api.htm](http://www.apen4ej.org/issues_api.htm)

(W) Brugge, Doug, “Environmental Justice and Asian Americans,” Asian American Movement Ezine, available at: <http://www.aamovement.net/community/aej.html>

**GUEST SPEAKER: Vivian Chang, Asian Pacific Environmental Network**

### **Oct. 25 – Environmental Injustices in the Workplace**

(R) Levenstein, Charles and John Wooding, “Dying for a Living – Workers, Production, and the Environment,” Chapter 2 in D. Faber (ed.), *The Struggle for Ecological Democracy: Environmental Justice Movements in the United States*, New York: The Guilford Press, pp.: 60-81, 1998.

(R) Pellow, David Naguib and Lisa Sun-Hee Park, “The Core: Work and the Struggle to Make a Living without Dying,” in *The Silicon Valley of Dreams: Environmental Injustice*,

*Immigrant Workers, and the High-Tech Global Economy*, New York: NYU Press, pp.: 112-136, 2003.

### **Oct. 27 – Environmental Justice and Access to Natural Resources**

- (R) Romm, Jeff, “The Coincidental Order of Environmental Injustice,” in Mutz, Bryner, and Kenney (eds.) *Justice and Natural Resources*, Washington, D.C.: Island Press, pp.: 117-137, 2002.
- (R) Hynes, Patricia, “The Chelsea River: Democratizing Access to Nature in a World of Cities,” in J. Boyce and B. Shelley (eds.) *Natural Assets: Democratizing Environmental Ownership*, Washington, D.C.: Island Press, pp.: 277-297, 2003.

### **Nov. 1 – International Environmental Injustices**

- (W) Alastair Iles, “Mapping Environmental Justice in Technology Flows: Computer Waste Impacts in Asia,” *Global Environmental Politics*, vol. 4, no. 4, 2004.
- (W) Basel Action Network and Silicon Valley Toxics Coalition, *Exporting Harm: The High-Tech Trashing of Asia*, 2002, available at:  
<http://www.svtc.org/cleancec/pubs/technotrash.pdf>

**GUEST SPEAKER: Alastair Iles, UC Berkeley**

### **Nov. 3 – Genetic Engineering and Environmental Justice**

- (R) McKibben, Bill, *Enough: Staying Human in an Engineered Age*, New York: Henry Holt and Company, pp.: 1-65, 2003.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Rich Hayes, Center for Genetics and Society**

### **Nov. 8 – Government Responses to Remedy Environmental Injustices (I)**

- (R) Weinberg, Philip, “Equal Protection,” Chapter 1 in M. Gerrard (ed.) *The Law of Environmental Justice*, American Bar Association, pp.: 3-22, 1999.
- (R) Mank, Bradford, “Title VI,” Chapter 2 in M. Gerrard (ed.) *The Law of Environmental Justice*, American Bar Association, pp.: 23-67, 1999.

### **Nov. 10 – Government Responses to Remedy Environmental Injustices (II)**

- (W) Executive Order 12898 – Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, February 11, 1994, available at:  
[http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/ej/exec\\_order\\_12898.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/ej/exec_order_12898.pdf)
- (W) Office of Inspector General, *EPA Needs to Consistently Implement the Intent of the Executive Order on Environmental Justice*, Report No. 2004-P-00007, Washington, D.C., March 1, 2004, available at:  
[http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/ej\\_annual\\_project\\_reports.html](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/ej_annual_project_reports.html)
- (W) USEPA, “Agency Response to Recommendations Provided in the OIG Evaluation Report entitled, ‘EPA Needs to Consistently Implement the Intent of the Executive Order on Environmental Justice,’” Washington, D.C., June 7, 2004, available at:  
[http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/ej\\_annual\\_project\\_reports.html](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/ej_annual_project_reports.html)

## **Nov. 15 – California State Responses to Remedy Environmental Injustices**

(W) California Environmental Protection Agency, *Final Report of the Advisory Committee on Environmental Justice to the Cal/EPA Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice*, September 30, 2003, available at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/Committee/>

(W) California Environmental Protection Agency, *Inter-Agency Environmental Justice Strategy*, July 2004 Draft, available at: <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/>

**GUEST SPEAKER: Romel Pascual, US Environmental Protection Agency**

## **Nov. 17 – Community Responses (I): Social Movement Strategies**

(R) Moore, Richard and Louis Head, “Building a Net that Works: SWOP,” Chapter 10 in R. Bullard (ed.) *Unequal Protection: Environmental Justice & Communities of Color*, San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, pp.: 191-206, 1994.

(R) Krauss, Celene, “Women of Color on the Front Line,” Chapter 14 in R. Bullard (ed.) *Unequal Protection: Environmental Justice & Communities of Color*, San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 256-271, 1994.

## **Nov. 22 – Community Strategies (II): Development Strategies**

(W) Matsuoka, Martha, “Building Healthy Communities From the Ground Up: Environmental Justice in California,” 2003, available at: <http://www.environmentalhealth.org/BuildingHealthyCommunities.htm>

(W) Ellis, Juliet, Charles Mason, Bhavna Shamasunder, and Catalina Garzón, *Brownfields Neighborhood Revitalization*, 2002, available at: <http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/summitIIPolicyPapersTOC.html>

**GUEST SPEAKER: Lynette Lee, East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (invited)**

## **Nov. 24 – Community Strategies (III): Citizen Science**

(W) O’Rourke, Dara and Gregg Macey, “Community Environmental Policing: Assessing New Strategies of Public Participation in Environmental Regulation,” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, vol. 22, no. 3, pp.: 383-414, 2003, available at: <http://nature.berkeley.edu/orourke/>

(R) Novotny, Patrick, “Popular Epidemiology and the Struggle for Community Health in the Environmental Justice Movement,” Chapter 5 in D. Faber (ed.), *The Struggle for Ecological Democracy: Environmental Justice Movements in the United States*, New York: The Guilford Press, pp.: 137-158, 1998.

## **Nov. 29 – Community Strategies (IV): Beyond Legal Strategies**

(R) Cole, Luke, “Empowerment as the Key to Environmental Protection: The Need for Environmental Poverty Law,” *Ecology Law Quarterly*, vol. 19:619-683, 1992.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Luke Cole, Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment**



## **Dec. 1 – Cross-Movement, Cross-Border Organizing**

(W) View, Jenice, *Just Transition Alliance Frontline Workers and Fenceline Communities United for Justice*, 2002, available at:  
<http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/summitIIPolicyPapersTOC.html>

(W) Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, “Border/Worker Justice,” available at: [http://www.sneej.org/border\\_justice.htm](http://www.sneej.org/border_justice.htm)

## **Dec. 6 – The Deep Challenges: Institutional Processes and Power**

(R) Faber, Daniel, “The Political Ecology of American Capitalism: New Challenges for the Environmental Justice Movement,” Chapter 1 in D. Faber (ed.), *The Struggle for Ecological Democracy: Environmental Justice Movements in the United States*, New York: The Guilford Press, pp.: 27-59, 1998.

## **Dec. 8 – Summary and Conclusions**

(R) Cole, Luke, and Sheila Foster, “Transformative Politics,” Chapter 7 in *From the Ground Up*, New York University Press, pp.: 151-165, 2001.

## **Dec. 17 – Final Examination – Exam Group 12 – Friday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 5-8 p.m.**