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POLS 4710/5710
ENR 4890
Engineering 3114
M-Th: 9:10-1:05
Final: Thurs, June 3, 9:10

**UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
POLS 4710-01, ENR 4890-01
Summer 2010**

Course Description:

What is environmental justice? In this course, students will be exposed to environmental justice as both a social movement and a growing body of associated scholarly literature. The course introduces students to the historical development and conceptualization of environmental justice through a variety of case studies and analytical essays and monographs. Key questions that will be examined include: how did the environmental justice movement emerge? How has this originally domestic movement grown and morphed globally? How does the movement integrate concerns for the environment with questions of social justice? How is justice conceptualized? What sorts of problems, analytical and practical, have constrained the advancement of environmental justice? What are the key conceptual, methodological, and political issues in the contemporary scholarly literature?

Required Readings:

Cole, Luke and Sheila Foster. 2001. *From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement*. New York: New York University Press.

Schlosberg, David. 2009. *Defining Environmental Justice*. New York: Oxford University Press.

A host of articles are available through electronic reserve at Coe Library and through electronic databases sponsored by Coe Library.

If you are purchasing your books somewhere other than the UW Bookstore, please purchase the above editions. Please bring the text(s) we are reading to class.

Course Requirements:

Participation: 20%

In addition to introducing you to the substantive material, this course also seeks to improve your critical thinking skills and to develop your ability to communicate ideas and deliberate with others. This course is designed to be a discussion seminar-- each student will bear a significant burden in ensuring the success of the course. Course participation includes preparation, attendance, verbal participation, and engagement.

Attendance is required— students are allowed one absence. For each following unexcused absence the student's course grade will drop one third of a letter grade (i.e. from an A to an A-).

Daily Assignments: 15%

Most of the days we meet will include an assignment. **No late assignments will be accepted.** Students should produce quality work that will be scored with the following points:

Discussion Questions: 0-3 points

Provide two probing questions for class discussion based on the assigned readings.

One-page Essays: 0-7 points

Expectations for the daily assignments are very high: razor sharp, tight analysis, polished presentation. Papers are due at the beginning of each class.

In-Class Exercise: American Heritage Center. Final Grade Deduction for Nonparticipation

We will meet at the American Heritage Center to receive an orientation in archival research methods and to conduct original archival research on the Wyoming case of Wagon Wheel. Following this activity we will discuss whether or not this case is an example of environmental justice or more traditional democratic decision-making on an environmental issue.

Exam: 30%

There will be one final examination with some combination of multiple choice, identification, and essay questions. A blue book is required. The exam will take place on the last day of class, Thursday, June 3, from 9:00-1:00. No early finals will be given.

Term Paper: 35%

Students will be required to submit a term paper of 10-12 double-spaced pages (1inch margins, Times New Roman, 12 point font). Papers are due at the beginning of class on Thursday, June 3. A more detailed paper assignment will be distributed.

First assignment toward final paper: Due Monday, May 24.

Prepare a 3 page written summary of the facts of the environmental justice case you will be researching for your term paper. Present the case to the class.

Second assignment toward final paper: Due Tuesday, June 1.

In a 3 page essay, identify and explain how **two** key theoretical concepts pertain to the empirical environmental justice case you have chosen. Examples include, but are not limited to: harm, recognition, participation, distribution, scale, gender, race, class, rhetorical frame.

The first and second assignments will each be worth 5% of your final course grade. The final term paper will be worth 25% of your course grade. It is due the last day of class, Thursday, June 3.

Grading: All written assignments (excepting those given point values) and exams will be graded using the following scale:

93-100	A	77-79	C+
90-92	A-	73-76	C
87-89	B+	70-72	C-
83-86	B	67-69	D+
80-82	B-	63-66	D
		60-62	D-
		< 60	F

Academic Honesty: Academic dishonesty (including plagiarism and all other offenses listed under University Regulation 802 rev 2) will not be tolerated. Any violations of University policy will be handled through University procedures explained at

<http://www.uwyo.edu/a&s/AppealsDishonesty/GuidelinesDishonesty>

Accommodations for persons with documented disabilities require student registration with University Disability Support Services (UDSS) in SEO, room 330 Knight Hall, 766-6189, TTY 766-3073. Please make every effort to register and inform me of your needs as soon as possible.

No electronic devices (excepting silenced cell phones) will be allowed in class unless first approved by the instructor.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Monday, May 17:

Introductions

Viewing: Erin Brockovich

Handout:

Environmental Justice Web Resources, an evolving document

Tuesday, May 18:

Environmental Justice: What is “the Environment”?

Readings:

Cole and Foster, pp. 1-79.

Evans, Mei Mei. 2002. “‘Nature’ and Environmental Justice” in *The Environmental Justice Reader*, eds. Joni Adamson, Mei Mei Evans, and Rachel Stein. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, pp. 181-193. Electronic Reserve, Coe Library.

Key Documents:

“Principles of Environmental Justice” found at
<http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/princej.html>

In class- Viewing:

“Environmental Justice for All” Robert Bullard, UCTV
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=spE6D3Dpzb8>

Assignment:

Write a one page single-spaced essay in response to the question “What is ‘the environment’?”

Wednesday, May 19:

Environmental Justice: Defining Harm

Readings:

Robert Kuehn. 1997. “An analysis of the compatibility of quantitative risk assessment with the principles of environmental justice in the United States” *Risk Decision and Policy* 2 (3): 259-276. Electronic Reserve, Coe Library

Cutter, S.L., B.J. Boruff, and W.L. Shirley. 2003. “Social vulnerability to environmental hazards,” *Social Science Quarterly* 84 (2): 242-61.

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/118874556/PDFSTART>

Cutts, B. K.J. Darby, C. Boone, A. Brewis. 2009. “City structure, obesity, and environmental justice: An integrated analysis of physical and social barriers to walkable streets and park access” *Social Science & Medicine* 69: 1314-1322.

http://www.sciencedirect.com/science?_ob=ArticleURL&_udi=B6VBF-4X6XK6K-1&_user=2532480&_coverDate=11%2F30%2F2009&_rdoc=1&_fmt=high&_orig=search&_sort=d&_docanchor=&_view=c&_acct=C000057783&_version=1&_urlVersion=0&_userid=2532480&_md5=aebae43d3b910a63a10f1e66dd7fb60f

Key Documents:

“Toxic Waste and Race at 20, 1987-2007” found at
<http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/TWART-light.pdf>

Cerrell Report: <http://www.ejnet.org/ej/cerrell.pdf>

Assignment: Analytical Essay: write a one-page, single spaced, analytical essay that examines one of the key issues raised in the readings for today.

Thursday, May 20 **Environmental Justice and Decision-Making Processes (participation)**

Readings: Cole and Foster, pp.80-165

Brulle, Robert and Jonathan Essoka. 2005. "Whose Environmental Justice? An Analysis of the Governance Structure of Environmental Justice Organizations in the United States" in *Power, Justice and the Environment*, eds. David Naguib Pellow and Robert J. Brulle, Cambridge: MIT Press, pp. 205-218. On electronic reserve, Coe Library.

Key Documents: Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations" found at <http://www.ejrc.cau.edu/execordr.html>

Evaluation Report: EPA Needs to Consistently Implement the Intent of the Executive Order on Environmental Justice
<http://www.epa.gov/oigearth/reports/2004/20040301-2004-P-00007.pdf>

Assignment: Discussion Questions: Prepare two questions for class discussion (typed and ready to be submitted).

In-class exercise: Mapping environmental injustice:
<http://www.scorecard.org/community/ej-index.tcl>
<http://www.epa.gov/emefdata/em4ef.home>

Monday, May 24: **Environmental Justice: Gender and Recognition**

Readings: Schlosberg, pp. 1-78

Buckingham, Susan and Rakibe Kulcur. 2009. "Gendered Geographies of Environmental Injustice" *Antipode* 41(4):659-683.
<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/122586777/PDFSTART>

Kurtz, Hilda. "Gender and Environmental Justice in Louisiana: Blurring the Boundaries of Public and Private Spheres" *Gender, Place and Culture* 14(4): 409-426.
http://pdfserve.informaworld.com/12381_751319992_780829042.pdf

Sze, J., 2006., Boundaries and border wars: DES, technology, and environmental justice. *American Quarterly*, 58(3), 791-814.
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/american_quarterly/v058/58.3sze.pdf

Assignment: Prepare a 3 page written summary of the facts of the environmental justice case you will be researching for your term paper. Present the case to the class.

Assignment: Discussion Questions: Prepare two questions for class discussion (typed and ready to be submitted).

Tuesday, May 25: **Environmental Justice: Capabilities and Autonomy**
Readings: Schlosberg, pp. 79-212

Pena, Devon. 2005. "Autonomy, Equity, and Environmental Justice" in *Power, Justice, and the Environment*. Eds, David Naguib Pellow and Robert J. Brulle. Cambridge: MIT Press. Pp.131-151. **

Assignment: Analytical Essay: write a one-page, single spaced, analytical essay that examines one of the key issues raised in the readings for today.

In-class Exercise: Archival Research Orientation at American Heritage Center

Wednesday, May 26: **Environmental Justice: Transnational and Global Issues**

Readings: Roberts, J. Timmons. 2007. "Globalizing Environmental Justice" in *Environmental Justice and Environmentalism: The Social Justice Challenge to the Environmental Movement*, ed. Ronald Sandler and Phaedra C. Pezzullo. Cambridge: MIT Press. pp.285-307. Electronic reserve, Coe Library.

Pellow, David Naguib. 2007. "Transnational Movement Networks for Environmental Justice" from *Resisting Global Toxics: Transnational Movements for Environmental Justice*. Cambridge: MIT Press. Pp. 73-95. Electronic reserve, Coe Library.

Meletis, Zoe. 2009. "Benevolent and Benign? Using Environmental Justice to Investigate Waste-related Impacts of Ecotourism in Destination Communities" *Antipode* 41(4): 741-780.

<http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/cgi-bin/fulltext/122586780/PDFSTART>

Moore, Sarah. 2008. "The Politics of Garbage in Oaxaca, Mexico" *Society and Natural Resources* 21(7): 597-610.

http://pdfserve.informaworld.com/742047_751319992_795324649.pdf

Assignment: Discussion Questions: Prepare two questions for class discussion (typed and ready to be submitted).

Thursday, May 27: **Environmental Justice: Local, the Case of Wagon Wheel**
In-Class Exercise: Archival Research at the American Heritage Center

Monday, May 31: Memorial Day, No class.

Tuesday, June 1:
Readings:

Environmental Justice: Environmental Justice and Energy

Sze, Julie. 2005. "Race and Power: An Introduction to Environmental Justice Energy Activism" in *Power, Justice, and the Environment*. Eds, David Naguib Pellow and Robert J. Brulle. Cambridge: MIT Press. Pp.101-130. **

Tyree, S. 2009. "The environmental injustice of 'clean coal': Expanding the national conversation on carbon capture and storage technology to include an analysis of potential environmental justice impacts" *Environmental Justice* 2 (4): 167-171. Electronic reserve, Coe Library.

Carruthers, David. 2007. "Environmental Justice and the Politics of Energy on the US-Mexico Border" *Environmental Politics* 16(3): 394-414.

http://pdfserve.informaworld.com/448092_751319992_778248211.pdf

Fact Sheet:

<http://www.energyjustice.net/ej/energy-ej.pdf>

Browse:

<http://www.energyjustice.net/>

Assignment:

In a three page essay, identify and explain how two key theoretical concepts pertain to the empirical environmental justice case you have chosen. Examples include: harm, recognition, participation, distribution, scale, gender, race, class, rhetorical frame.

Guest speaker:

Lee Scharf

Wednesday, June 2: Environmental Justice: Review and Synthesis
Discussion and Final Exam preparation

Thursday, June 3: Final Exam

Final Papers Due In Class: NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED