

University of California, Santa Cruz
ENVS 147 -- Environmental Inequality, Environmental Justice
Summer Session, 2015
Professor Andrew Szasz

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The concepts of “environmental racism” or “environmental justice” arose from a specific struggle by a community of African-Americans resisting the siting of a hazardous waste landfill in their community. From its beginnings as an innovative fusion of environmental activism and black Civil Rights, the concept of environmental racism has continued to grow and expand. It soon embraced the experience of other racial and ethnic minorities in the United States, Native Americans, latinos and others. Expanding the concept further, the “environmental inequalities” perspective came to encompass gender and class dimensions, as well. The concept can be expanded fruitfully in both space and time: Environmental inequalities exist not only in the United States; all over the world, social and environmental inequalities are inseparable facets of a single process. Environmental inequality not only pervades contemporary society; at its very origins, modern society was made possible by acts of combined social and environmental injustices. In this course, we study “environmental inequalities” in this deep, structural sense.

THREE TOPICS TO BE COVERED IN THE COURSE

Environmental Inequalities at the foundation of Modernity
Environmental Inequalities – Research
Environmental Justice in the context of the American environmental movement

REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Read required readings in a timely manner. All readings are posted on eCommons.
- 2) Regular attendance at lecture is required. Attendance will be taken. 2 points per session.
- 3) Midterm exam #1. 25 points.
- 4) Midterm exam #2. 25 points.
- 5) Final exam. 30 points.

Please Note: I considered any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating on exams or plagiarizing from the Web in your paper, a serious violation of the University's norms of conduct. Students who plagiarize or cheat on exams receive an F in the course and will be reported to their College Provost for further sanctions.

Each day of class is divided into three periods or parts:

- (a) 1:00 to 2:00
- (b) 2:15 to 3:15
- (c) 3:30 to 4:30

Important dates:

- Midterm #1 – Wednesday, July 1st
- Midterm #2 – Monday, July 13th
- Final exam – Wednesday, July 22nd

SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS, READINGS

Session 1, Monday, June 22

Topics:

Introduction; the start of the environmental justice movement; early research
 Social Inequalities: Class; race/ethnicity; how they interact
 Environmental Inequalities at the foundation of Modernity (introduction)

Readings:

Saez, "US class inequality 2015" – look, especially, at the graphs in the back
 Norton/Arieli, "Actual vs Ideal Wealth Distribution," – also, the graphs
 Brown, "Divergent Fates: The Foundations of Durable Racial Inequality, 1940-2013"

Session 2, Wednesday, June 24

Topic: Environmental Inequalities at the foundation of Modernity (cont.)

Readings:

Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation: the Political and Economic Origins of Our Time, Chapters 3-6, pp. 33-76.

Friedrich Engels, Conditions of the Working Class in England in 1844, "The Great Towns," pp. 68-110.

Karl Marx, Capital, Volume 1, pp. 238-263.

Session 3, Monday, June 29

Topic 1: Environmental Inequalities at the foundation of Modernity (cont.)

Readings:

Alfred W. Crosby, "Ecological Imperialism: The Overseas Migration of Western Europeans as a Biological Phenomenon," pp. 103-117 in Worster, The Ends of the Earth: Perspectives on modern environmental history.

William Cronon, Changes in the Land, pp. 54-107

Timothy C. Weiskel, "Toward an Archaeology of Colonialism: Elements in the Ecological Transformation of the Ivory Coast," pp. 141-171 in Worster, The Ends of the Earth: Perspectives on modern environmental history.

Topic 2: Environmental Inequalities – Research (introduction)

(Topics to be covered in this section, June 29 through July 8:

- The city as a site of environmental injustice
- Explaining outcomes: which came first, the people or the hazards?
- The workplace as a site of environmental injustice
- The race vs. class debate
- New directions in EJ research: "natural" disasters; climate justice
- The state of the research; methodological issues)

Session 4, Wednesday, July 1

*** Midterm #1 [first hour] ***

Topic: Environmental Inequalities – Research (cont.)

Readings:

Robert Hersch, "Race and Industrial Hazards: An Historical Geography of the Pittsburgh Region, 1900-1990." Discussion Paper 95-18. Washington, DC: Resources for the Future, 1995.

Andrew Hurley, "The Social Biases of Environmental Change in Gary, Indiana, 1945-1980." *Environmental Review*, 12(4): 1-19, 1988.

Andrew Szasz and Michael Meuser, "Unintended; Inexorable: The Production of Environmental Inequalities in Santa Clara County, CA," *American Behavioral Scientist* 43(4):602-632, 2000.

Session 5, Monday, July 6

Topic: Environmental Inequalities – Research (cont.)

Readings:

Beverly Hendrix Wright, "The Effects of Occupational Injury, Illness, and Disease on the Health Status of Black Americans: A Review"

Donna M. Randall and James F. Short, Jr., "Women in Toxic Work Environments: A case Study of Social Problem Development," *Social Problems*, 30(4):410-424, 1983.

Marian Moses, "Farmworkers and Pesticides," Chapter 10 (pp. 161-178) in Robert D. Bullard, Confronting Environmental Racism.

Kathy Hall, "Impacts of the Energy Industry on the Navajo and Hopi," pp. 130-154 in Robert D. Bullard, Confronting Environmental Racism.

Session 6, Wednesday, July 8

Topic: Environmental Inequalities – Research (cont.)

Readings:

John Logan, "The Impact of Katrina: Race and Class in Storm-Damaged Neighborhoods"

Darwin BondGraham, "The New Orleans that Race Built: Racism, Disaster, and Urban Spatial Relationships," *Souls*, 9(1):4 — 18, 2007

suggested R. W. Kates, C. E. Colten, S. Laska§ and S. P. Leatherman, "Reconstruction of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina: A research perspective," *PNAS* 103(40):14653–14660, October 3, 2006.

*The following are *suggested* readings – recent literature reviews, summarizing the state of the research in environmental justice:

Szasz and Meuser, "Environmental Inequalities: Literature Review and Proposals for New Directions in Research and Theory," Current Sociology, 45(3):99-120, 1997.

Brulle and Pellow. 2006. "Environmental Justice: Human Health and Environmental Inequalities." *Annual Review of Public Health* 27: 3.1 - 3.22.

Mohai, P., Pellow, D., & Roberts, J.T. (2009). Environmental Justice. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 34 (1), 405-430.

Sze and London. 2008. "Environmental Justice at the Crossroads." *Sociology Compass* 2(4): 1331–1354.

Session 7, Monday, July 13

*** Midterm #2 [first hour] ***

Topic: EJ perspective on the history of the American Environmental Movement, Period 1

Statements by Frederick Law Olmstead, Theodore Roosevelt, Guifford Pinchot, John Muir, in Merchant, pp. 384-385, 319-321, 328-330, 356-358.

Marcy Darnovsky, "Stories Less Told: histories of US environmentalism," *Socialist Review* (92/4), v. 22, # 4, October/December, 1992, pp. 11-54.

Robert Gottlieb, "Reconstructing Environmentalism: Complex Movements, Diverse Roots," *Environmental History Review*, Winter, 1993, pp. 1-19.

Session 8, Wednesday, July 15

Topic: EJ perspective on the history of the American Environmental Movement, Period 2

Readings:

Andrew Szasz, EcoPopulism, chapter 2.

Andrew Szasz, "Corporations, Organized Crime and the Disposal of Hazardous Waste: An Examination of the Making of a Criminogenic Regulatory Structure," *Criminology*, 24(1):1-27, 1986.

Marver Bernstein, selection from The Life Cycle of Regulatory Commissions.
suggested

Anthony Downs, "Up and Down With Ecology -- the 'Issue-Attention Cycle,'" The Public Interest, 28(Summer):38-50. *suggested*

Szasz, EcoPopulism, chapters 6

Session 9, Monday, July 20

Topic: EJ perspective on the history of the American Environmental Movement, Period 3

Readings:

Szasz, EcoPopulism, Chapters 3, 4, 8

Citizens' Clearinghouse on Hazardous Waste, Empowering Ourselves, pp. 4-6, 25-34.

Cynthia Hamilton, "Women, Home and Community....," *Race, Poverty and the Environment*, 1(1):3, 10-13.

Cynthia Hamilton, "Concerned Citizens of South Central Los Angeles," pp. 207-219 in Robert D. Bullard, ed., Unequal Protection.

Gabriel Gutierrez, "Mothers of East Los Angeles Strike Back," pp. 220-233 in Robert D. Bullard, ed., Unequal Protection.

Session 10, Wednesday, July 22 – Final Exam

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Summer Session Students with Disabilities:

If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization Letter from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me as soon as possible, preferably within the first week of the Summer Session. Contact DRC by phone at [831-459-2089](tel:831-459-2089) or by email at drc@ucsc.edu for more information.