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 – Research
Environmental Inequalities at the foundation of Modernity
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.

Each day of class is divided into three periods or parts:
(a) 9:00 to 10:00
(b) 10:15 to 11:15
(c) 11:30 to 12:30
Important dates:
- Midterm #1 – Tuesday, August 9th
- Midterm #2 – Tuesday, August 16th
- Final exam – Thursday, August 25th

SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS, READINGS

Session 1, Tuesday, July 26

Topics: Introduction to the course; the start of the environmental justice movement;
Social Inequalities -- class; race/ethnicity; how they interact; overview of EJ research

Readings:
- Saez, “US class inequality 2015” (look at the graphs in the back)
- Norton/Arieli, “Actual vs Ideal Wealth Distribution” (here, too, the graphs)
- Brown, “Divergent Fates: The Foundations of Durable Racial Inequality, 1940-2013”

Session 2, Thursday, July 28

Topic: Environmental Inequalities “where we live”

Readings:
Session 3, Tuesday, August 2

Topic: Environmental Inequalities “where we work”

Readings:
Marx, Capital, Volume 1, pp. 238-263.
Davidson, Peril on the Job, pp. 1-41.
Wright, "The Effects of Occupational Injury, Illness, and Disease on the Health Status of Black Americans: A Review"
Moses, "Farmworkers and Pesticides," Chapter 10 (pp. 161-178) in Robert D. Bullard, Confronting Environmental Racism.

Session 4, Thursday, August 4

Topic: Environmental Inequalities: The state of current research; new directions in EJ research

Readings:
Logan, “The Impact of Katrina: Race and Class in Storm-Damaged Neighborhoods”
Kates, “Reconstruction of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina: A research perspective”
Rice, “The Transnational Organization of Production and Uneven Environmental Degradation …”
Roberts and Parks, “Ecologically Unequal Exchange, Ecological Debt, and Climate Justice: The History and Implications of Three Related Ideas for a New Social Movement”

Session 5, Tuesday, August 9

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

Topic: Environmental inequalities a fundamental feature of Modernity
Reading:

Session 6, Thursday, August 11

Topic: Environmental inequalities a fundamental feature of Modernity (cont)

Readings:
* recall Marx on the working day, Engels on the early industrial city


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


Session 7, Tuesday, August 16

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

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

Readings:

Nash, on “wilderness,” in Merchant, pp. 365-372.

Fox, *The American Conservation Movement: John Muir and His Legacy*, pp 272-290


Session 8, Thursday, August 18

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

Readings:
Rachel Carson, selection from *Silent Spring*, Merchant, pp. 437-440


Session 9, Tuesday, August 23

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

Readings:
Szasz, *EcoPopulism*, Chapters 3, 4, 8


Session 10, Thursday, August 25

*** Final Exam ***

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 classes. Contact DRC at 831-459-2089 or at drc@ucsc.edu for more information.

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.