

ENVS 25: Environmental Policy, Economics, and Justice

Online Course Summer 2024 (July 29 – August 30)

Instructors

Name and Pronouns	Abby Cunniff (they/them)	Sabrina Lopez (she/he/they)	Stefan Yong (he/him)
Role	Instructor	Teaching Assistant	Teaching Assistant
Email	acunniff@ucsc.edu	slopez22@ucsc.edu	zhyong@ucsc.edu
Office Hours	Tuesday 2-3pm, Thursday 3-4pm	Wednesday 1-2pm	Monday 1-2pm
Section	A 🗨️: Thursday 2-3pm	B ⭐: Friday 1-2pm	--

OVERVIEW

Course Description: This course introduces students to the policy, economic, and justice dimensions of some of the most pressing environmental challenges facing us today. Module 0 will introduce you to the course and is due Wednesday, July 31st at 5pm. Each module will correspond with a week of the course: Module 1 will lay the theoretical foundations of environmental policy, environmental justice, and environmental economics, while Modules 2-5 will explore a case study and the policy, justice, and economic implications of each issue. I (Abby) will be giving the lectures in Module 5 about my own area of expertise, environmental justice in prisons.

Online Structure: The course is divided between asynchronous activities that you can complete on your own schedule and synchronous sessions that will take place in a group and at a set time.

1. Asynchronous: Most of the course will be on Canvas (3-6 hours of lectures, videos, readings, quizzes). All materials are available on Canvas, you do not need to purchase any textbooks for this course. Each Module is due **one hour before your section starts**. *For your own sanity, I would recommend not leaving this until the night before to complete.*
2. Synchronous: Required discussion sections will be held on Zoom. **You must attend the section you are registered for every week.** These sections are not optional, they are a critical part of this course. You must be signed into Canvas to access the Zoom sections through Canvas.

Effort: This is a condensed course; we are fitting a 10-week, 5 unit course in half that amount of time (5 weeks). You will need to spend about 30 hours each week on lectures, readings, and assignments. To support your learning on such a tight schedule, we encourage you to reach out to other students in your section, attend any of the instructors' office hours, and review readings/module lectures, especially if you don't understand the course material.

Academic Integrity: Unless otherwise stated in writing, all assignments should be written individually and be original works for this class (see [UCSC policy](#)). Whenever you use the work/ideas of another person, you must cite their work. All citations should be in APA format.

How to get your questions answered: If you have questions about the course, first check the syllabus. If what you are looking for is not in there, please post it to the "Q&A Forum" under Module 0. The teaching team will be checking that M-F. *Do not email us about Canvas questions unless you have already posted on the Q&A Forum.*

SUPPORT & SERVICES

Campus Resources, Advocacy and Education: <https://care.ucsc.edu/who-we-are/about-care.html>

Accessibility and Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit an Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to me **within the first week of the summer session**. You may submit these via email.

Contact DRC at 831-459-2089 (voice), 831-459-4806 (TTY), or <http://drc.ucsc.edu> for more information on the requirements or process.

Title IX Office: <https://titleix.ucsc.edu/resources/syllabi-disclosure-statement.html>

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

I (Abby) want you to succeed and, along the way, strengthen your skills in writing, sensitivity, and accountability! To get an A, you should read and analyze all the readings, participate in all sections having watched all videos and all Module materials for that week, and put in considerable effort toward the midterm and final assignments. For quizzes, we will be looking for the correct answer from the readings or lectures, but for the reading responses, midterm, and final assessments, we are looking to see that you are listening deeply and thinking critically about the topics in our class.

1. **Weekly Quizzes (20%)**

8-9 short quizzes per Module are due one hour before your section starts (either 1pm on Thursday for or 12pm on Friday Section B★). There will be no makeups for quizzes, but your two lowest grades will be dropped.

2. **Weekly Reading Responses (20%)**

Each week you should post a few musings or questions (**4-5 sentences**) about all of the week's readings to your section discussion board one hour before section (either 1pm on Thursday for Section A🔥 or 12pm on Friday Section B★). These should demonstrate both your comprehension of the week's readings and your analysis of them.

Here's what I usually ask myself after reading: Do I agree with the author's argument? Did they present compelling evidence for their argument? What makes their message convincing? What might be biasing this author? You are welcome to answer these questions or ask your own.

3. **Post-Zoom Assessments from section (20%)**

Each week, you will meet for section in our Zoom classroom for 1 hour and work in a small group. Following the Zoom section each week, you will complete and turn in a Zoom Assessment as a group, which will be relatively straightforward if you have attended and participated in section. **Zoom Assessments will be due by 11:59pm each Friday.**

4. **Midterm Exam (20%)**

This open book and note midterm is due on **Friday August 16** at 11:59pm. The exam will be open for 7 days before it is due. You are encouraged to discuss the exam with peers, but the work you submit must be original and your own.

5. **Final Exam (20%)**

This open book and note final exam is to be completed on the last day of the course, **Friday August 30**. You will have the option to conduct the final assessment individually or with a small group in section. Each student must write and submit their original own answers. ***The final exam prompt will be available on Canvas at 7am on Friday August 30 and it will be due to Canvas by 11:59pm on this day.*** If you choose to work individually you do not need to show up to the Zoom session this day, but if you want to work in a small group you should show up as normal.

Extension Policy: You will have one late pass to submit an assignment (reading response, midterm, or final) 24 hours late. When you use your late pass, please add **[LATE PASS]** to your Canvas post so we will know you are using your late pass.

Late Policy: You are strongly urged to hand in your work on time. Late assignments will incur a **25% grade drop per day starting immediately after the due date and time**. If an assignment is due at 1pm, it will drop from a 4 to a 3 at 1:01pm. That said, I recognize that things come up, and despite the best of intentions, you may not be able to make a deadline due to a medical or family emergency. If this happens, please come to my (Abby's) office hours to coordinate a makeup assignment. Please do not email about it, just come straight to the next soonest office hour, either on Tuesday or Thursday.

Grading will be based on the following:

99-100 – A+ 87-89 – B+ 77-79 – C+ 67-69 – D+ <60 - F

94-98 – A 84-86 – B 74-78 – C 64-68 – D

90-93 – A- 80-83 – B- 70-73 – C- 60-63 – D-

*For assigning final grades I will round up final grades at or above 0.5 and round down at or below 0.49. In fairness to all students, I will not make any exceptions to this rule. Thank you for your understanding.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1 (July 29-August 2)

Module 0: Introduction to Course and Syllabus

1. Readings: Syllabus
2. Assignments: Syllabus Quiz (due on Canvas by **5pm Wednesday July 31**)

Module 1: Conceptual Foundations in Environmental Policy, Economics, & Justice

1. Lecture/Videos: 9 videos (4.5 hours)
2. Quizzes: 8
3. Readings: 65 pages
 - a. "Indigenous environmental justice and sustainability" by Deborah McGregor, Steven Shitaker, and Manhisshe Sritharan, 2020
 - b. "From Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter" by Robert D. Bullard, 2020
 - c. "Environmental Justice and the Law" by Salim Oday, 2020
4. Section assignments
 - a. Reading Response for Module 1 readings
 - b. Post-Zoom assessment

Week 2 (August 5-August 9)

Module 2: Climate Change

1. Lectures/Videos: 12 videos (2.5 hours)
2. Quizzes: 8
3. Readings: 100 pages
 - a. “Climate Justice in the Global North: An Introduction” by Kashwan, Prakash, 2021
 - b. “Too Late for Indigenous Climate Justice: Ecological and Relational Tipping Points” by Kyle Powys Whyte, 2020
 - c. Carbon Markets 101: The Ultimate Guide to Global Offsetting Mechanisms. 2020.
 - d. “The Hidden Disequities of Carbon Trading: Carbon Emissions, Air Toxics, and Environmental Justice” by Raul Lejano, Wing Shan Kan, and Ching Chit Chau, 2020
 - e. **Local focus:** A Catastrophic Flood on California’s Central Coast has Plunged Already Marginalized Farmworkers into Crisis
4. Section assignments
 - a. Reading Response for Module 2 readings
 - b. Post-Zoom Assessment

Week 3 (August 12-August 16)

Module 3: Waste

1. Lectures/Videos: 9 videos and 1 film (5.5 hours)
2. Quizzes: 9
3. Readings: 100 pages
 - a. *Waste* Chapters 1 & 2 by Kate O’Neill. 2019.
 - b. “Environment, Modernity, Inequality” by David Pellow, 2007
 - c. “Environmental justice and nuclear waste conflicts in Taiwan” by Mei-Fang Fan, 2006
 - d. “Using citizen science in environmental justice: participation and decision-making in a Southern California waste facility siting conflict” by Carla May Dhillon, 2017
 - e. Resolution 109 “Green New Deal” February 7, 2019
4. Assignments
 - a. Reading Response for Module 3 readings
 - b. Post-Zoom Assessment
 - c. Midterm due on Friday August 16th at 11:59pm

Week 4 (August 19-August 23)

Module 4: Biodiversity

1. Lectures/Videos: 9 videos and 1 film (3 hours) *Warning:* these videos include some intense images)
2. Quizzes: 8
3. Readings 55 pages
 - a. “Rethinking and Upholding Justice and Equity” by Jonathan Pickering, Brendan Coolsaet, Neil Dawson, Kimerly Marion Suiseeya, Chrtina Y.A. Inoue, and Michelle Lim, 2022
 - b. “Fighting Transnational Environmental Crime” by Lorraine Elliot, 2012

- c. “Developing a theory of change for a community-based response to illegal wildlife trade” by R. Duffy, et al, 2019
 - d. “Removing dams from the Klamath River is a step toward justice for Native Americans in Northern California” by Middleton Manning, Elisabeth Rose and Robert Lusardi, 2023
4. Assignments
 - a. Reading Response for Module 4 readings
 - b. Post-Zoom Assessment

Week 5 (August 26-August 30)

Module 5: Prisons and Environmental Justice

1. Lectures/Videos: 5 videos (2 hours)
2. Quizzes: 5
3. Readings: 50 pages
 - a. “Joining Forces: Prisons and Environmental Justice in Recent California Organizing” by Rose Braz and Craig Gilmore, 2006.
 - b. “Environmental Inequalities and the U.S. Prison System: An Urgent Research Agenda” by David Pellow, 2017.
 - c. “Layered Sites of Environmental Justice: Considering the Case of Prisons” by Tara Opsal, Austin Luzbetak, Stephanie Malin, and India Luxton, 2023.
 - d. “Prisons, Jails, and the Environment: Why Environmentalists Should Care About Mass Incarceration?” by Dorceta E. Taylor, 2024.
4. Assignments
 - a. Reading Response for Module 5 readings
 - b. Final due on Friday, August 30 at 11:59PM