

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

## ESPM 163AC AND SOCIOLOGY 137AC

### 4 Units – Spring 2018

#### LECTURES:

Monday & Wednesday 4:00-5:00 pm  
CCN: 33804 and 30305

LeConte 4  
Discussion Sections: Mandatory

#### INSTRUCTOR:

Dara O'Rourke - [orourke@berkeley.edu](mailto:orourke@berkeley.edu)  
Course Site: <https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1467020>  
Office Hours: Monday 1:00-3:00 pm. 130B Giannini Hall.  
Sign up at: <https://calendly.com/daraorourke/>

#### GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTORS:

Mikaela Burns <a href="mailto:mikburns@berkeley.edu">mikburns@berkeley.edu</a>	Jessica Ho <a href="mailto:jessw_ho@berkeley.edu">jessw_ho@berkeley.edu</a>	Andrea Morgan <a href="mailto:andrea_morgan@berkeley.edu">andrea_morgan@berkeley.edu</a>
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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 and health issues. The course presents research 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/Latina, Asian American, and Native American communities.

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 amenities and burdens. Case studies of, and research methods for, identifying environmental, health, and social inequities that underlie environmental justice claims will be incorporated 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, Latinx, Asian American, and Native American. These cases will be analyzed 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. We will also explore global “climate justice” issues and movement responses.

#### GOALS FOR THE COURSE

- Analyze institutional processes impacting race, class, and the environment;
- Analyze structural perspectives on inequality and race in the US;
- Analyze data on the distributions of environmental and health outcomes;
- Perform basic quantitative analysis linking social, economic, and environmental data;
- Analyze government policies related to environmental issues;
- Analyze strategies to prevent or remedy environmental justice problems;
- Strengthen critical thinking, writing, and presentation skills.

## ASSIGNMENTS

Students are expected to:

1. Read all of the assigned readings before each lecture for which they are assigned, and actively participate in class discussions in lectures and sections.
2. Complete three short assignments during the semester. These will involve:
  - a) Complete a short assignment defining environmental injustice and describing how your own racial, socio-economic, or geographic background influenced your exposure to environmental harm and access to environmental benefits. This assignment will be due on **February 7<sup>th</sup>**.
  - b) Complete a short essay analyzing federal, state, or local government policies related to an EJ case, analyzing the role of race and/or class in the policy. This assignment will be due on **March 7<sup>th</sup>**.
  - c) Complete a short assignment on Gathering Evidence and Making Causal Claims related to your term project. This assignment will be due on **April 4<sup>th</sup>**.
3. Complete a Term Project by **April 25<sup>th</sup>**. In consultation with your section GSI, develop a term paper, wiki page, webpage, or video that involves research and analysis of an environmental justice topic or case. Alternately, students may develop a group service learning project in conjunction with a local non-profit organization, with the prior approval of your GSI. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>
4. Students will take an in-class final exam. We will be in Final Exam Group 17, **May 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-11:00 am**.

## EVALUATION:

The course grade will be based on the following activities:

20%	-	Class participation in lectures and sections.
20%	-	Assignments
5%	-	Outline and Bibliography for Term Project
25%	-	Term Project
30%	-	Final Examination

## 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 and plagiarism will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs, which may administer additional punishment. As a tool to promote academic integrity in this course, work submitted via bCourses may be checked for originality against 2018 and previous year's work using Turnitin (<http://ets.berkeley.edu/academic-integrity>).

The use of electronic devices (laptops, tablets, phones, etc.) will not be allowed during lectures due to growing evidence of their [deleterious effect on learning](#) and negative impacts on [other students](#).

## REQUIRED READINGS

The readings will be available either in the course reader, via bCourses, or on the web. A reader will be on reserve in the CNR Resource Center (260 Mulford Hall). The reader will be available for purchase at Replica Digital Ink, 2138 Oxford St., Berkeley, CA 94704.

## SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

### January 17 - Introduction to the Course

No readings.

### January 22 – Race and Class in America Today

Hochschild, Arlie, (2016), *Strangers in Their Own Land*, “Traveling to the Heart” and “Appendix B: Politics and Pollution,” The New Press, New York.

Lopez, German, (2017), “The past year of research has made it very clear: Trump won because of racial resentment,” Vox.com, available at:

<https://www.vox.com/identities/2017/12/15/16781222/trump-racism-economic-anxiety-study>

Douthat, Ross, (2017), “Race and Class and What Happened in 2016,” The New York Times, available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/29/opinion/donald-trump-2016-election.html>

Supplemental Reading:

Ray, Raka, (2017), “A case of internal colonialism? Arlie Hochschild’s *Strangers in Their Own Land*,” The British Journal of Sociology, Volume 68, Issue 1, March 2017, available at:

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1468-4446.12240\\_1/full](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1468-4446.12240_1/full)

Serwer, Adam, “The Nationalist’s Delusion,” *The Atlantic*, available at:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/11/the-nationalists-delusion/546356/>

Coates, Ta-Nehisi, “The First White President,” *The Atlantic*, available at:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/amp/article/537909/>

### January 24 – What is Environmental Injustice?

Mohai, Paul, David Pellow, and J. Timmons Roberts, “Environmental Justice,” *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 2009, 34:405-430.

### January 29 — Environmental Disparities in the US

Saha, Robin, “A Current Appraisal of Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States - 2007.” *Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty*. United Church of Christ, pp: 49-83.

### January 31 — Health Disparities in the US

Landrigan, Philip, Virginia Rauh, and Maida Galvez, “Environmental Justice and the Health of Children,” *Mount Sinai Journal of Medicine*, 2010, vol. 77: 178-187.

Burke, Alison, (2017), “Working class white Americans are now dying in middle age at faster rates than minority groups,” The Brookings Institute, available at:

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/brookings-now/2017/03/23/working-class-white-americans-are-now-dying-in-middle-age-at-faster-rates-than-minority-groups/>

### February 5 – Frameworks of Justice

Schlosberg, David, 2003, "The Justice of Environmental Justice: Reconciling Equity, Recognition, and Participation in a Political Movement." In Andrew Light and Avner deShalit, eds., *Moral and Political Reasoning in Environmental Practice*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

### **February 7 – Inequality, Stress, and Cumulative Impacts**

Sapolsky, Robert, "Sick of Poverty," *Scientific American*, Dec. 2005, pp: 93-99.

Morello-Frosch, Rachel, Miriam Zuk, Michael Jerrett, Bhavna Shamasunder, and Amy D. Kyle, "Understanding the Cumulative Impacts of Inequality in Environmental Health: Implications for Policy," *Health Affairs* 30, No. 5 (2011): 879-887.

Inequality.org, "Inequality and Health," available at: <https://inequality.org/facts/inequality-and-health/>

### **February 12 – Race in America**

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.

Neal, Samantha, (2017) "Views of racism as a major problem increase sharply, especially among Democrats," Pew Research Center, available at: <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/08/29/views-of-racism-as-a-major-problem-increase-sharply-especially-among-democrats/>

Supplemental Reading:

Goyette, Braden and Alissa Sheller, "15 Charts That Prove We're Far From Post-Racial," Huffington Post, July 2, 2014, available at: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/02/civil-rights-act-anniversary-racism-charts\\_n\\_5521104.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/02/civil-rights-act-anniversary-racism-charts_n_5521104.html)

Bobo, Lawrence, "Racism in Trump's America: reflections on culture, sociology, and the 2016 US presidential election," *The British Journal of Sociology* 2017 Volume 68 Issue S1.

Mullainathan, Sendhil, "Racial Bias, Even When We Have Good Intentions," *The New York Times*, Jan. 3, 2015, available at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/04/upshot/the-measuring-sticks-of-racial-bias-.html>

### **February 14 – Class in America**

Leonhardt, David, "Our Broken Economy, in One Simple Chart," *The New York Times*, Aug. 7, 2017, available at: [https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/08/07/opinion/leonhardt-income-inequality.html?emc=edit\\_ty\\_20170808&nl=opinion-today&nliid=13014556&te=1&r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/08/07/opinion/leonhardt-income-inequality.html?emc=edit_ty_20170808&nl=opinion-today&nliid=13014556&te=1&r=0)

Badger, Emily, "Whites Have Huge Wealth Edge Over Blacks (but Don't Know It)," *The New York Times*, Sept. 18, 2017, available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/09/18/upshot/black-white-wealth-gap-perceptions.html?r=0>

Reeves, Richard, (2017), “The Dream Horders: How America’s Top 20 Percent Perpetuates Inequality,” available at: <http://bostonreview.net/class-inequality-education-opportunity/richard-v-reeves-dream-hoarders-how-americas-top-20-percent>

Supplemental Reading:

Politzane, Wealth Inequality in America, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OPKKQnijnsM>

Bouie, Jamelle, “The Wealth Gap Between Whites and Blacks is Widening,” Slate, available at: [http://www.slate.com/articles/news\\_and\\_politics/politics/2017/09/the\\_wealth\\_gap\\_between\\_whites\\_and\\_blacks\\_is\\_widening.html?wpsrc=sh\\_all\\_dt\\_tw\\_top](http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/politics/2017/09/the_wealth_gap_between_whites_and_blacks_is_widening.html?wpsrc=sh_all_dt_tw_top)

Lowrey, Annie, “The Rich Get Richer Through the Recovery,” *New York Times*, September 10, 2013, <http://economix.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/09/10/the-rich-get-richer-through-the-recovery/>

For more statistics, check out: <https://inequality.org/facts/>

### **February 19 – President’s Day – No Class**

### **February 21 - Measuring Environmental Injustices**

Pastor, Manuel, et.al. 2005. “Environmental Inequity in Metropolitan Los Angeles,” in R. Bullard (ed.) *The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution*, San Francisco: Sierra Club Books. Pgs. 108-124.

Mohai, Paul, et.al. 2009. Racial and socioeconomic disparities in residential proximity to polluting industrial facilities: Evidence from the Americans’ Changing Lives study. *American Journal of Public Health*. 99 (supp 3):S649-S656.

Mohai, Paul, and Robin Saha (2015), “Which Came First, People or Pollution? A review of theory and evidence from longitudinal environmental justice studies,” *Environmental Research Letters*, 10.

### **February 26 - Measuring Cumulative Risks**

US EPA, “What is Risk Assessment?” available at: <https://www.epa.gov/risk/about-risk-assessment#whatisrisk>

Sexton, Ken and Stephen H. Linder, “The Role of Cumulative Risk Assessment in Decisions about Environmental Justice,” *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health*, 2010, 7, 4037-4049.

Solomon, Gina, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Lauren Zeise, and John B. Faust, (2016), “Cumulative Environmental Impacts: Science and Policy to Protect Communities,” *Annual Review of Public Health*, 37:83-96.

### **February 28 - Federal Policies - Guest Speaker – Charles Lee**

Clinton, William J. 1994. Executive Order 12898: Federal actions to address environmental justice in minority populations and low-income populations. Available at [www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12898.pdf](http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/executive-orders/pdf/12898.pdf)

US EPA, “EJ 2020 Action Agenda” available at: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-05/documents/052216\\_ej\\_2020\\_strategic\\_plan\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-05/documents/052216_ej_2020_strategic_plan_final_0.pdf)

### **March 5 – The EPA Today**

Lipton, Eric and Danielle Ivory, “Under Trump, E.P.A. Has Slowed Actions Against Polluters, and Put Limits on Enforcement Officers,” *The New York Times*, Dec. 10, 2017, available at: [https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/10/us/politics/pollution-epa-regulations.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/10/us/politics/pollution-epa-regulations.html?_r=0)

Nadja Popovich et al., “60 Environmental Rules on the Way Out Under Trump” *The New York Times*, Dec. 15, 2017, available at: [https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/10/05/climate/trump-environment-rules-reversed.html?smid=tw-share&\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/10/05/climate/trump-environment-rules-reversed.html?smid=tw-share&_r=0)

McKenna, Phil, “Chief Environmental Justice Official at EPA Resigns,” Inside Climate News, March 9, 2017, available at: <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/09032017/epa-environmental-justice-mustafa-ali-flint-water-crisis-dakota-access-pipeline-trump-scott-pruitt>

#### Supplemental Reading:

Brady Dennis and Juliet Eilperin, “How Scott Pruitt Turned the EPA into one of Trump’s most powerful tools,” *The Washington Post*, Dec. 26, 2017, available at: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/under-scott-pruitt-a-year-of-tumult-and-transformation-at-epa/2017/12/26/f93d1262-e017-11e7-8679-a9728984779c\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.ce4b0a8ad2ae](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/under-scott-pruitt-a-year-of-tumult-and-transformation-at-epa/2017/12/26/f93d1262-e017-11e7-8679-a9728984779c_story.html?utm_term=.ce4b0a8ad2ae)

Friedman, Lisa, “Brain Drain at the EPA,” ProPublica, Dec. 22, 2017, available at: [https://www.propublica.org/article/brain-drain-at-the-epa?utm\\_campaign=social&utm\\_content=1513906106&utm\\_medium=tweet&utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_term=epa](https://www.propublica.org/article/brain-drain-at-the-epa?utm_campaign=social&utm_content=1513906106&utm_medium=tweet&utm_source=twitter&utm_term=epa)

### **March 7 – State and Local Policies**

Bonorris, Steven. 2010. *Environmental Justice for All: A Fifty State Survey of Legislation, Policies and Cases* (Fourth Edition), pp: i-xviii.

Bonorris, Steven and Nicholas Targ. 2010. Environmental Justice in the Laboratories of Democracy. *Natural Resources & the Environment*. Fall, 2010.

Also, review: <http://www.saferstates.com>

### **March 12 – Legal Bases for Environmental Justice Claims**

Weinberg, Philip, “Equal Protection,” Chapter 1 in M. Gerrard (ed.) *The Law of Environmental Justice*, American Bar Association, pp.: 3-22, 2008.

Mank, Bradford, “Title VI,” Chapter 2 in M. Gerrard (ed.) *The Law of Environmental Justice*, American Bar Association, pp.: 23-67, 2008.

### **March 14 – The Environmental Justice Movement**

Taylor, Dorceta E. 2002. “Race, class, gender, and American environmentalism.” Gen. Tech. Rep. PNW-GTR-534. Portland, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. Read pages: 1-4, 20-41.

Martinez-Alier, Joan, Leah Temper, Daniela Del Bene & Arnim Scheidel, "Is there a global environmental justice movement?" *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 2016, Vol. 43, No. 3, 731–755,

EJ on the Berkeley Campus:

<https://serc.berkeley.edu/letter-to-the-environmental-community-from-students-of-color/>

### **March 19 – Campaigning Strategies**

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

### **March 21 – Community-Based Participatory Research**

Minkler, Meredith, Victoria Breckwich Vásquez, Mansoureh Tajik, and Dana Petersen, "Promoting Environmental Justice Through Community-Based Participatory Research: The Role of Community and Partnership Capacity," *Health Education & Behavior*, Vol. 35 (1): 119-137, 2008.

Gonzalez, Priscilla, Meredith Minkler, Analilia P. Garcia, Margaret Gordon, Catalina Garzon, Meena Palaniappan, Swati Prakash, and Brian Beveridge, "Community-Based Participatory Research and Policy Advocacy to Reduce Diesel Exposure in West Oakland, California," *American Journal of Public Health*, Supplement 1, 2011, vol. 101, No. S1, pp: S166-S175.

### **March 26-30 - SPRING BREAK**

#### **April 2 – Community Monitoring**

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.

#### **April 4 – Climate Change**

Wallace-Wells, David, "The Uninhabitable Earth," *New York Magazine*, July 14, 2017, available at: <http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2017/07/climate-change-earth-too-hot-for-humans-annotated.html>

The New York Times, "2017: The Year in Climate," Dec. 6, 2017, available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/06/climate/year-end-review.html>

#### **April 9 – "Natural Disasters" and EJ**

Dawson, Ashley, "The Global Calculus of Climate Disaster," *The Boston Review*, Sept. 6, 2017, available at: <http://bostonreview.net/science-nature/ashley-dawson-global-calculus-climate-disaster>

Roberts, David, "Climate Change did not "Cause" Harvey, or Irma, but it's a huge part of the story," *Vox.com*, Sept. 11, 2017, available at: <https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2017/8/28/16213268/harvey-climate-change>

Declét-Barreto, Juan, "Hurricane Harvey Magnifies Climate and Petrochemical Toxic Risks for Environmental Justice Communities in Houston," *Union of Concerned Scientists*, Sept. 1, 2017, available at: <https://blog.ucsusa.org/juan-declét-barreto/hurricane-harvey-magnifies-climate-and-petrochemical-toxic-risks-for-environmental-justice-communities-in-houston>

#### **April 11 – Climate Justice Activism**

Roberts, Timmons (2009), “The International Dimension of Climate Justice and the Need for International Adaptation Funding,” *Environmental Justice*, Vol. 2, No. 4.

Forman, Fonna et al (2016), Chapter 8. Bending the Curve and Closing the Gap: Climate Justice and Public Health. *Collabra*, 2(1): 22, pp. 1–17,

Steffen, Alex, (2017), “The Last Decade and You,”  
<https://thenearlynow.com/the-last-decade-and-you-489a5375f8e8>

### **April 16 – Consumption and EJ**

O’Rourke, Dara, “Citizen Consumer,” *Boston Review*, November 2011,  
<http://www.bostonreview.net/forum/citizen-consumer>

Leonard, Annie, *The Story of Stuff*, 2008, available at: <http://www.storyofstuff.org/>

### **April 18 – Green Jobs and Sustainable Development**

Alternatives for Communities and Environment, “Environmental Justice and the Green Economy,” 2010.

United Nations Environment Programme. 2008. *Green Jobs: Towards Decent Work in a Sustainable, Low-Carbon World*, pp: 3-28.

### **April 23 – What Do We Want in Our Backyards?**

Jones, Van, “A Contract for the American Dream,” available at:  
<http://www.rebuildthedream.com/contract>

Treuhafft, Sarah, Angela Glover Blackwell, and Manuel Pastor, “America’s Tomorrow: Equity is the Superior Growth Model,” 2011, pp:1-27, available at:  
[http://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/SUMMIT\\_FRAMING\\_WEB\\_20120110.PDF](http://www.policylink.org/sites/default/files/SUMMIT_FRAMING_WEB_20120110.PDF)

Johnson, Nathanael, “Enviros and Developers: A Love Story,” *Grist*, Oct. 30, 2017, available at:  
<https://grist.org/article/san-francisco-environmentalists-housing-development-fight/>

### **April 25 – The Future of Environmental Justice**

Brulle, Robert and David Pellow. 2005. “The Future of Environmental Justice Movements,” in D. Pellow and R. Brulle (eds.) *Power, Justice, and Environment: A Critical Appraisal of the Environmental Justice Movement*, Cambridge: MIT Press, pp.: 171-184, 2005.

Pellow, David, (2016), “Toward a Critical Environmental Justice Studies,” *Du Bois Review*, pp: 221-236.

## **CLASSES END**

**READING WEEK – April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 4<sup>th</sup>**

**FINAL EXAMINATION – May 11<sup>th</sup> – 8:00-11:00 a.m.**