

University of California, Santa Cruz
Sociology 185 -- Environmental Inequalities
Spring Quarter, 2010
Professor Andrew Szasz

Office: 336 College Eight
Office Hours: Mondays, 12-1, Tuesdays, 11-1, or by appointment
Telephone: 459-2653
Email: szasz@ucsc.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The concepts of “environmental racism” and “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 original fusion of environmental and black Civil Rights rhetorics, the concept of environmental racism has continued to grow, 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 pervades not only 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.

REQUIREMENTS

1) Read required readings in a timely manner. Most of the other readings are posted on ERes (I will announce the password in class). A few readings can be download directly from the internet.

2) Regular attendance at lecture is expected.

There will be 5 quizzes, given at random times, during lecture. The quizzes will test your knowledge of key issues raised in readings. Each quiz is worth 5 points.

3) Midterm exam. 35 points.

4) Either (a) take the final exam, or (b) write a research paper. 40 points; your choice. The research paper can be either an individual project or a small group project. Students who choose to write a research paper can choose either to study an environmental justice issue in their community/city of origin, or do research on environmental inequalities in another nation.

Please Note: I considered any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating on exams or plagiarizing from the Web in your papers, 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.

Important dates:

Midterm – April 26th

Final exam option – Monday, June 7th, 7:30-10:30 pm

Research paper option

Proposal (½ page) and list of (co-)authors is due May 10th.

Paper is due: June 7th, 7:30 pm.

SCHEDULE OF LECTURE TOPICS, READINGS

Week 1

March 29 -- Introduction; discovery of the environmental justice perspective

Ken Geiser and Gerry Waneck, "PCBs and Warren County," Science for the People, 15(4):13-17, 1983.

March 31 -- Environmental justice – early studies; expanding the issue

Robert D. Bullard, "Solid Waste Sites and the Houston Black Community," Sociological Inquiry 53 (Spring): 273-288, 1983.

Paul Mohai and Bunyan Bryant, "Environmental Racism: Reviewing the Evidence," pp. 163-176 in B. Bryant and P. Mohai (eds) Race and the Incidence of Environmental Hazards: A Time for Discourse, 1992. * suggested*

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.

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

Week 2

April 5 and 7 -- Environmental Inequalities in the transition to modernity

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

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

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

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.

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.

Week 3

April 12 -- Environmental inequalities in early American history

Native Americans

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

Cotton and slavery

Carolyn Merchant, Major Problems in American Environmental History, 206-211, 224-236

Mining in California

Carolyn Merchant, Major Problems in American Environmental History, 248-250, 260-265, 265-270, 280-284

April 14 – Workplace hazards as an environmental justice issue

Daniel M. Berman, Death on the Job: Occupational Health and Safety Struggles in the United States, Chapter 2, "The Official Body Count," pp. 38-53.

Beverly Hendrix Wright, "The Effects of Occupational Injury, Illness, and Disease on the Health Status of Black Americans: A Review," Chapter 15 in Richard Hofrichter, Toxic Struggles.

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.

Week 4

April 19 – the workplace, cont.; Urban dynamics and residential proximity

Al Gedicks, The New Resource Wars, Chapter 2.

Kurt Finsterbusch, Understanding Social Impacts: Assessing the Effects of Public Projects, Chapter 6, "Boom Towns," pp. 137-160.

April 21 -- Urban dynamics (cont.)

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. *suggested*

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.

Week 5

April 26 *** MIDTERM EXAM ***

April 28 – 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.

Week 6

May 3 -- EJ perspective on the history of the American Environmental Movement
Period 1 (cont.)

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.

May 5 -- EJ perspective on the history of the American Environmental Movement
Period 2

Rachel Carson, selection from Silent Spring, in Merchant, 437-440.

Robert Alford, "Paradigms of Relations between State and Society" *suggested*

Joseph Page and Mary-Wyn O'Brien, Bitter Wages, pp. 191-221.

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.

Week 7

May 10 -- EJ perspective on the history of the American Environmental Movement
Period 2 (cont)

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.

Andrew Szasz, "The Reversal of Federal Policy Toward Worker Safety and Health: A Critical Examination of Alternative Explanations," Science and Society, 50(1):25-51.

Szasz, EcoPopulism, chapters 6

*** For students doing the RESEARCH PAPER: PROPOSAL IS DUE ***

May 12-- EJ perspective on the history of the American Environmental Movement
Period 3

Szasz, EcoPopulism, Chapters 3, 4, 8

"Together We Can Do It," Southern Exposure, 9(3):42-47.

Ginny Thomas and Bill Brooks, "Buddy, We're Home: Halting the Heard County Landfill," Southern Exposure, 9(3):38-41. [in Course Reader]

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

Celene Krauss, "Women and Toxic Waste Protests: Race, Class and Gender as Resources of Resistance," Qualitative Sociology 16(3):247-262. *suggested*

Week 8

May 17-- EJ perspective on the history of the American Environmental Movement
Period 3 (cont)

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.

May 19 -- EJ perspective on the history of the American Environmental Movement
Period 3 (cont)

Conner Bailey, et al, "Environmental Politics in Alabama's Blackbelt," pp. 107-122 in Robert D. Bullard, Confronting Environmental Racism.

Barbara Epstein, "Grassroots Environmentalism: the Politics of Race and Gender," manuscript.

Executive Order 12898, (President Clinton's environmental justice policy), February 11, 1994, <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/eo/eo12898.pdf>

California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), "Environmental Justice Action Plan," October, 2004.

www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/ActionPlan/Documents/October2004/ActionPlan.pdf
* scan or skim*

California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), "Inter-Agency Environmental Justice Strategy," August, 2004,

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EnvJustice/Documents/2004/Strategy/Final.pdf>
* scan or skin*

Week 9

May 24 – Extending EJ: “Natural” Disasters; “Technological” Disasters

Robert Bolin and Lois Stanford, “Constructing Vulnerability in the First World: The Northridge Earthquake in Southern California, 1994,” pp. 89-112 in Oliver-Smith and Hoffman, The Angry Earth.

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

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. *suggested*

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

May 26 – Extending EJ: Climate Change; other generational inequalities

The Copenhagen Diagnosis – download text and figures at:
http://www.ccrc.unsw.edu.au/Copenhagen/Copenhagen_Diagnosis_LOW.pdf
and
http://www.ccrc.unsw.edu.au/Copenhagen/Copenhagen_Diagnosis_FIGURES.pdf

Week 10

May 31 *** Holiday *** No Class ***

June 2 -- Current state of EJ research; course summary

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

Paul Mohai and Robin Saha, “Racial Inequality in the Distribution of Hazardous Waste: A National-Level Reassessment,” *Social Problems*. 54(3)343–370, 2007. *suggested*

Bullard, et al, “Toxic Wastes and Race at Twenty, 1987-2007” *suggested*

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

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

June 7, Monday *** RESEARCH PAPER DUE 7:30 pm ***

*** FINAL EXAM 7:30-10:30 pm ***