



SUST 334: Local and Global Environmental Justice: A Practicum for Campus or Community

Fall 2017

Tues & Thurs 11:00-12:15pm

Mitchell Hall 205

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Office Hours: Monday 10:45am-Noon or by appointment

"It is no longer possible to separate environmental concerns from those of social justice. Equitable access to a stable climate, clean air, potable water, and safe food are core human rights and civil liberties currently at risk for all humans on the planet -- threats to these basic rights are an unparalleled humanitarian challenge."

-UUFV

What is Environmental Justice? In our complex, increasingly threatened world, how can we make sense of the destruction we see and feel all around us? Climate chaos. Environmental racism.

Refugees. Loss of civil liberties. Collapsing systems. How can we take part in movements that are "life-sustaining"? This course will explore these questions in depth, focusing on current issues such as climate change, extractive industries, nuclearism, prison reform, immigration, racism, waste, and colonialism. While they may seem at first glance like disparate, disconnected issues, in reality they overlap and intersect in important ways. Together we will learn how to understand such interconnections and also take action in ways that benefit our campus and community.

Course Objectives:

- Develop intellectual, practical, and creative skills to move towards sustainability.
- Gain a thorough understanding of environmental justice and environmental racism.
- Engage in 15 hours of outreach activity off campus.
- Work with peers to organize a sustainably-oriented project for the benefit of the campus or community
- Practice self-reflexivity about our own waste and consumption practices

Required Course Materials:

- Articles available on UNM Learn

Grading Scheme:

Class Participation (Attendance, Engagement in the Classroom):	15%
Assignments (Reading Journals, Media Project, EJ Panel Presentations):	20%
Campus/Community Project:	40%
Midterm Exam:	15%
Community Hours:	10%

A+ 99-100%	B+ 87-89%	C+ 77-79%	D+ 67-69%	F 60% or lower
A 93-98%	B 83-86%	C 73-76%	D 63-66%	
A- 90-92%	B- 80-82%	C- 70-72%	D- 60-62%	

Class Participation:

This class relies on the intellectual commitment and active participation of all students. In order for the course to be effective, all students **MUST** have the reading assignments completed and be prepared for an in-depth discussion each class. Students should bring the assigned reading to class, along with note-taking materials. Active listening and mutual respect are requirements for this course. Our course covers topics that you may not agree with or may elicit intense and emotional reactions from you. While some readings may challenge you or make you feel uncomfortable, take this as sign that you are learning and pushing the boundaries of what you took for granted. I ask that you keep an open mind and challenge yourself, while being respectful of the authors we read, your fellow classmates, and me. Hate speech, constant interruptions, and disrespect will not be tolerated.

Please turn off and put away all cell phones during class. Refrain from facebook, email, and anything other than a word doc for note taking as it is distracting to all around you.

Media Project- News from Gaia:

In an effort to be conscious and critical about where we are getting information, each student will have an opportunity to sign up for one week in the semester and be responsible for informing the class of news items for this week. For the duration of the week, you will choose 3 news sources you do not normally consult on a regular basis (Possibilities include: BBC, Democracy Now!, Al Jazeera, Fox News, Wall Street Journal, Truthout, Common Dreams). Your job is to consult 3 sources throughout the week, compare the presentation of the same information (story) from the different sources, and share your observations with the class. For your assigned day, you will:

1. Summarize 2 news stories relevant to our class themes (social and environmental justice, racism, climate change, inequality, nuclearism, water etc.)
2. Share your observations on the differences and/or similarities in how the information was presented in different news sources. Pay attention to headlines, language, and whose perspectives and voices are centered.
3. Provide a written account of the summary, your observations, and one discussion question to the Instructor.

Reading Journals:

You will be expected to write one paragraph (4 sentences minimum) for EACH reading assigned that explains *in your own words*:

- 1.) the author’s main arguments
- 2.) the author’s intended audience
- 3.) their sources
- 4.) Lastly, you will write one question the reading brought up for you and one comment you have about the reading.

The bulk of your response should be a summary of the author’s main arguments; please reserve your opinion about the piece for the comment and question section of the response. You will submit them on Learn and I will grade them on a complete/not-complete grading scale. They are due each week on the day of class (Tuesday or Thursday) morning by 9am. You will also be expected to write a short comment/response to a fellow student’s reading journal each week by Friday at noon. Let’s create a vibrant community on the web. I will give half credit for late journals. **No hardcopies will be accepted.** It is very important that

you stay on top of your Reading Journals because you may be called on in class to help facilitate our discussion of a reading with your comment or question. If you write a reading journal for the readings labeled OPTIONAL, you will receive an extra credit point counted towards your overall reading response grade.

Team Environmental Justice “Expert Panels” and “Interview an Activist”:

For this group assignment, you will work with your project team to research a major facet of environmental justice. This facet of EJ should relate directly to your project’s topic. (Ideas include: Science and Scientific Authority in EJ, Health and EJ, Climate Justice and EJ) You will 1) produce a short “primer” that translates major scholarly findings and arguments on your topic in a way that is designed to be accessible and helpful to families who are concerned that they might be experiencing an environmental justice problem; and 2) to make an in-class presentation of your findings that includes interviewing an activist/expert in your topic (20-30 minutes, followed by Q&A discussion). You may present your primer and information in the format of a panel (with a moderator), creatively as a skit or play, invite community speakers, or interactively with the class. Be creative and go with your passion. Have fun with it. The date of your group presentation will be determined in class.

Campus/Community Project:

This project is the central facet of the class. You will work in teams of 3 or 4 throughout the semester to design, troubleshoot, and implement a project that will be beneficial to our campus or community. Your project should respond creatively to the justice issues we face in our communities. We will discuss possible projects in class and brainstorm ideas together. The project is divided into 6 parts (outlined below.) More detailed instructions for each part will be distributed in class.

Part 1: Logic Model due Sept. 19th (10%): Each team will turn in one “Logic Model” worksheet outlining their project.

Part 2: Outline due Sept. 26th (15%): Using the Logic Model as a structure, each team will turn in one typed outline, including a detailed description of the role and responsibility of each team member.

Part 3: Proposal/Proposal Presentation due Oct. 17th (20%): Each team will turn in one project proposal and present on their proposal for the class.

Part 4: 2 Progress Reports due Nov. 2nd & Nov. 28th (10%): Each team will turn in two separate reports on our tumblr site (sust334.tumblr.com) on their project’s progress worth 5% each.

Part 5: Final Presentation due Dec. 12th (25%): Each team will present their project at the end of the semester for the class and possibly the wider campus/community.

Part 6: Final Reflection Paper due Dec. 12th (20%): Each team member will turn in one individual reflection paper (4-5 double-spaced type-written pages) including a description of their contribution to the team’s end product. The papers must reference at least 3 class texts and 2 outside scholarly sources.

Midterm:

The midterm will be an in-class test held on October 19th. The test will be made up of long essay questions and multiple choice questions all covering our class materials (readings, lectures, guest speakers). We will review for the midterm in class on October 17th.

Community Hours:

This course requires that you log 15 hours of outreach work in the community or on campus. In order to fulfill this requirement you must keep a log of your hours and write a short reflection (one to two paragraphs) about your activity. You will turn in a typed-up copy of your completed log to me at the end of the semester. I will offer multiple field trips outside of our class time throughout the semester that will count towards these hours should you choose to attend. Your hours should relate to our class themes in a clearly discernable way and cause change for the better. Be sure to email me ahead of time if you are unsure if an activity will count. After, be ready to share your experiences with the class. I will frequently email you opportunities for community hours, so please check your UNM email regularly.

Attendance Policy and Late Work:

Regular attendance is crucial to maintaining a committed and vibrant intellectual atmosphere. You are allowed TWO absences, and after two absences **your overall participation grade will be lowered by 5 points for each additional absence.** *Documented* medical and family emergencies are not included. (Note: Stellar participation in class has the potential to raise a borderline grade. Attendance problems or lack of engagement can lower your grade.) Unless you have made prior arrangements with me, late papers will be graded after a 10% reduction **for each day past the due date.** This does not apply to documented medical or family emergencies. Late reading responses will receive half credit.

Academic Dishonesty:

See pathfinder.unm.edu/common/policies/academic-dishonesty.html for the official policy. Let me know if you have any questions. Always cite your sources (whether you quote directly or paraphrase) to clearly to avoid problems with plagiarism. We will discuss plagiarism in detail at the beginning of the semester so as to avoid any confusion.

Accommodation:

Accessibility Services (Mesa Vista Hall 2021, 277-3506) provides academic support to students who have disabilities. If you think you need alternative accessible formats for undertaking and completing coursework, you should contact this service right away to assure your needs are met in a timely manner. If you need local assistance in contacting Accessibility Services, see the Bachelor and Graduate Programs office.

Sustainability Studies Community:

Please stop by the SUST kitchen and conference room in Room 163 of Castetter Hall. Have lunch, hang out, study, and create community!

For advising help regarding the Sustainability Studies Program, [please schedule an appointment with Terry Horger through Lobo Achieve.](#) You may also email her with specific questions at thorger@unm.edu.

Schedule:

***Note*:** I don't plan on it, but I reserve the right to change our schedule if I deem necessary. I will always give as much advance notice as I can and communicate the changes both in class and via email.

Week/Week's Theme	Date	Topic	Read/Discuss	Assignment Due
1: Introductions	Tues, Aug. 22 nd	Syllabus review, Introductions, and Course Expectations	Syllabus, Student Survey	
1: Introductions	Thurs, Aug. 24 th	Intro to EJ Principles Foundational understandings of "environment"	"Principles of EJ" First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit 1991; Selections from <i>Silent Spring</i> , Rachel Carson	Reading journals
2: What is Environmental Justice?	Tues, Aug. 29 th	The origins of the movement; environmental racism	"Toxic Wastes and Race in the U.S." Commission for Racial Justice, UCC (p.ix-xvi; 15-27)	Reading journals
2: What is Environmental Justice/Climate Justice?	Thurs, Aug 31 st	White supremacy and environmentalism Begin process of matching team members. Skills exercise.	"The Least Convenient Truth: Climate Change and White Supremacy" by Bani Amor	Reading journal
3: Institutional Racism	Tues, Sept. 5 th	What is structural racism? Anti-racism/ Anti-oppression training Redlining and Environmental Racism	"Race Best Predicts Whether You Live Near Pollution" <i>The Nation</i> "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack", Peggy McIntosh	Reading Journal
3: Water, Air, Land in New Mexico	Thurs, Sept. 7 th	The Mixed Waste Landfill The Precautionary Principle	"Toxic Waste: Everything Has to Go Somewhere" from <i>The Orphaned Land</i> by VB Price	Reading journal

Week/Week's Theme	Date	Topic	Read/Discuss	Assignment Due
4: Institutional Racism/Settler Colonialism	Tues, Sept. 12 th	What's colonialism got to do with it? Groups chosen: begin work on logic models and panels (move towards topics)	Excerpts from <i>An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States</i> , Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz	Reading journal
4: Challenging Our Conceptions of "Environment"	Thurs, Sept. 14 th	Toxic threats, cancer, and justice	"Ecological Roots" and "Afterward" Sandra Steingraber	Reading journal
5: The Great Turning	Tues, Sept. 19 th	How can we move towards healing and reconnection? "The Great Turning" Model	"The Greening of the Self" Joanna Macy; "Imagining Earth" Geneen Marie Haugen	Reading journal Logic Models due
5: The Nuclear Legacy	Thurs, Sept. 21 st	What has been the full impact of nuclearism on New Mexico and on the world?	"Nuclear Natures: In the Shadows of the City on a Hill", Jake Kosek,	Reading journal
6: The Nuclear Legacy/Indigenous Activism	Tues, Sept. 26 th	Nuclear waste and sustainability	"Nuclear Wasteland" from <i>The Tainted Desert</i> , Valerie Kuletz	Reading journal
6: Health and Environmental Justice	Thurs, Sept. 28 th	What connections can we make between cancer, gender, and environmental justice?	"Some Live More Downstream Than Others: Cancer, Gender, and Envir. Justice" Jim Tarter	Reading journal Assign "Waste Challenge"
7: Waste	Tues, Oct. 3 rd	Trash, Waste, and Garbage	<i>What We Leave Behind</i> , Derrick Jensen & Aric McBay	Reading journal Project Outlines due Bring in waste
7: Food Justice	Thurs, Oct. 5 th	Race and food justice	"Social Justice Beliefs and Addiction to Uncompassionate Consumption", A. Breeze Harper	
8: Campus/Community Projects	Tues, Oct. 10 th	Teams present their proposals Peer feedback on proposals		Team Project Proposal and Presentation due
8: Fall Break	Thurs, Oct. 12 th	No Class- Fall Break		

Week/Week's Theme	Date	Topic	Read/Discuss	Assignment Due
9: Midterm Review	Tues, Oct. 17 th	Review for Midterm		
9: Midterm	Thurs, Oct. 19 th	Midterm Exam		
10: Social Change	Tues, Oct. 24 th	Nonviolence, activism, and social change	"The Pillars" from <i>This is an Uprising: How Nonviolent Revolt is Shaping the 21st Century</i> Mark Engler and Paul Engler	Reading journal
10: Expert Panel	Thurs, Oct. 26 th	1 st Team Panel Presentation		Reading journal
11: Fracking and Extractive Industries	Tues, Oct. 31 st	What are the environmental, political, social, and long-term costs of fracking? What is the global outlook?	"Fracking: The Boom and Its Consequences" Ian Dunlop; "Intro" Bamberger & Oswald	Reading Journals
11: Expert Panel	Thurs, Nov. 2 nd	2 nd Team Panel Presentation		Reading journal Team's progress report #1 due
12: Militarism and the Environment	Tues, Nov. 7 th	What is the impact of militarism on the environment?	Militarism and Global Warming" by Steve Martinot; "Ecocide in Marlboro Country" from <i>Dead Cities</i> , Mike Davis	Reading journal
12: Expert Panel	Thurs, Nov. 9 th	3 rd Team Panel Presentation		
13: Standing Rock	Tues, Nov. 14 th	What did Standing Rock teach us about water, sustainability, and settler colonialism?	TBA	TBA
13: Expert Panel	Thurs, Nov. 16 th	4 th Team Panel Presentation		
14: Water and Sustainability	Tues, Nov. 21 st	Lessons from the world's least sustainable city	Excerpts from <i>Bird on Fire</i> by Andrew Ross	Reading journal
14: Campus/Community Projects	Thurs, Nov. 23 rd	TBA	TBA	TBA

Week/Week's Theme	Date	Topic	Read/Discuss	Assignment Due
15: TBA	Tues, Nov. 28 th	TBA	TBA	Team's progress report #2 due
15: Revolutionary Ecology	Thurs, Nov. 30 th	Revolutionary Ecology	<i>Revolutionary Ecology</i> by Judi Bari	Reading journal
16: TBA	Tues, Dec. 5 th	TBA	TBA	TBA
16: Campus/Community Project	Thurs, Dec. 7 th	Course evaluations Self-grading sheets Final preparations for presentations		Community Hours Log Due
17: Final Presentations	Tues, Dec. 12 th	Final Presentations (12:30-2:30pm) Location TBA		Project Papers and Presentations due