

# EAS 510: Science and Practice of Social Change

## Winter 2021

**Instructor:** Dr. M'Lis Bartlett

School for Environment and Sustainability

Email: [mlis@umich.edu](mailto:mlis@umich.edu)

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 4:15-6 pm

Office Hours Zoom Link:

### **Graduate Student Instructors (GSI)**

Celina (CeCe) Horbat

Office Hours: Tuesday from 11 am - 1 pm EST

Office Hours Zoom Link:

### **Lecture: Monday and Wednesday 2:30-4 pm**

Lecture Zoom Information:

<https://umich.zoom.us/j/93561253653>

Meeting ID: 935 6125 3653

### **Discussion Sections**

Section (2) 510.002 | Thursday 1:00-2:00 PM EST

Section (3) 510.003 | Thursday 5:30-6:30 PM EST

Section (4) 510.004 | Friday 10:00 AM- 11:00 AM EST

Section (5) 510.005 | Friday 11:30 AM- 12:30 PM EST

All times are listed in Eastern Time Zone

### **Course Description**

The current environmental challenges facing humanity are grounded in complex social systems. Solving them will require professionals and engaged community members to understand and address the cultural, political, and economic setting in which they are grounded. In this course, we will move between theories of change within the social sciences and the application of these theories to current environmental issues across scales. Through case studies of current environmental issues, we will examine the interactions/intersections between people, place, and power that need to be addressed as we work to create just sustainable solutions.

### **Course Requirements**

**Readings:** All readings and class materials will be made available on the Canvas Website. Readings from guests will be posted with sufficient time for you to read and enter your reading responses.

**Assignments:** There are a number of short assignments across the course that provide for deeper exploration of a topic, practice at a particular skill, or the opportunity to apply concepts from the course. They range in style from an executive summary, a mind map or sketch, or a social-ecological system to

planning a course of action for a particular case study. Each one is designed for you to think creatively, applying theories and skills to a social-ecological concern. While they are short, your responses should be well written, referenced and professional in nature.

**Facilitating Discussion:** Discussion sections are a place for you to talk with your peers about the readings and the lecture presentations. Each week a small team of students will be responsible for facilitating a conversation or workshop in the discussion section related to the readings. Your team will provide a plan prior to your facilitation that will be approved by M'Lis or CeCe. The details of this process will be organized in your discussion.

**Reading Responses:** Reading responses are short pieces of writing where you will reflect on the week's readings in a small online discussion group. Responses are to be posted in your Canvas Module by Monday morning at 10:00 am ET. Each response is worth 10 points and should be a concise response to the prompt that references material from lecture or reading. As a part of your reflection, you will respond to one of your peer's comments or questions in the Canvas Module thread. Please see canvas lecture page for details on your assigned Lecture Group. These groups will change over the course of the semester so that you may "meet" and get to learn from more people in the course.

**Participation Quizzes:** With this large of a class this is a small way for you to gather participation points and it will help us take attendance. These quizzes will include one or two questions in either a short answer or multiple choice form. You can earn up to 2 points for each question. (0 if you don't answer; 1 for an incorrect answer and 2 for a correct answer.)

**Attendance and participation:** This course will be taught synchronously and attendance is expected at all lectures and your registered discussion.

If you know that you are going to be absent from class for religious, cultural or other reasons please let us know ahead of time. I strongly encourage you to honor your cultural and religious holidays. If are unable to attend class or you need an extension on your homework due to a serious illness or family emergency, arrangements must be made with one of us before the homework due date

Please note if you miss class, for whatever reason, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate. If you have questions about the reading assigned for the day or the discussion that you missed, please feel free to come to office hours or make an appointment to meet at an alternative time. We will not have notes in a form that can be emailed to you, nevertheless we will be happy to discuss the material with you in person.

### **Course Resources**

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** If you think you need an accommodation for a disability, please let me know at your earliest convenience. Some aspects of this course, the assignments, the in-class activities, and the way the course is usually taught may be modified to facilitate your participation and progress. As soon as you make me aware of your needs, we can work with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office to help us determine appropriate academic accommodations. SSD (734-763-3000; <http://ssd.umich.edu>) typically recommends accommodations through a Verified Individualized Services and Accommodations (VISA) form. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

Once your eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, you will be issued a verified individual services accommodation (VISA) form. Please present this form to me at the beginning of the term, or at least two weeks prior to the need for the accommodation (test, project, etc...).

Your success in this class is important to me. If there are circumstances that may affect your performance in this class, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can work together to develop strategies for adapting assignments to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course.

### **Additional Resources**

We have made a Resource Document connecting you to resources at SEAS and UM as well as ways for students to connect | [Link to Resources](#) & can also be found in Pages section of Canvas

**Technology Support for Students:** This a synchronous course, meaning that it will be taught at the time dedicated by the registrar. We know that tech issues will challenge many of us this semester. If you are having trouble accessing the lecture, discussion, related materials, doing group work etc. Please let us know as soon as possible so that we may address the issue. Please note that we will do our best to assist, but are not tech experts and we may have to refer you to others. I recommend reviewing the [resources listed](#) that include but are not limited to addressing technology issues and studying remotely.

### **Course Recordings (UPDATED):**

Recorded lectures are not an alternative to taking notes or attending class and not will be openly posted. To assist students who may miss a class due a health concern or family emergency each lecture will be recorded and available upon request. Should you miss class for other reasons, feel free to make an appointment with CeCe or Dr. Bartlett. We are happy to meet with you.

Accommodations will be made for international students who can not, due to their location, attend class synchronously. The same is true for students with approved accommodations for students with disabilities.

Any shared recordings of this class are for your private use and may not be shared for any reason, likewise I will not share them outside of the class for any reason.

Students are prohibited from recording/distributing any class activity without written permission from the instructor. If you do not wish to be recorded or have questions/concerns, please contact CeCe Horbat at [chorbat@umich.edu](mailto:chorbat@umich.edu)

Additional information regarding course recordings and privacy concerns can be found on the [UM ITS Recording and Privacy Concerns webpage](#).

**Academic Integrity:** Please review Rackham's Academic and Professional Integrity Policy at <https://rackham.umich.edu/academic-policies/section8/>. If you would like further resources regarding writing and concerns about citations please see: Sweetland Writing Center's [Beyond Plagiarism](#).

### **Grading:**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Point Assignment</b>	<b>Total Points</b>
Assignments	60%	50 points each per assignment	300 (4 Assignments Total)
Participation Exercises	10%	1-2 points each per class	60 (30 Participation Exercises)
Reading Responses	15%	10 points each per assignment	60 (10 Reading Responses)
Leading Discussion	15%	50 points each	50 (1 Leading Discussion)

**A. Course Themes:**

Week: 1 **Course Introduction**

Week 2: **Systems, Frameworks and Approaches**

Week 4: **Governance, Power and Policy**

Week 6: **Exploring Individual Behavior Change, Education, Communication**

Week 9: **Community Based Research Methods**

Week 10: **Planning and Design: People and Placemaking**

Week 13: **Organizing and Movement Building**

**B. Weekly Schedule**

## **Week 1 Course Introduction**

Wednesday January 20

Course Introduction Wednesday  
Discussion Sections meet to organize discussion facilitation assignment

## Week 2: Systems, Frameworks and Approaches

**Monday January 25:** Environmental Justice Framework

**Wednesday January 27:** Environmental Justice Framework

### Required:

Agyeman, J., Schlosberg, D., Craven, L., & Matthews, C. (2016). Trends and directions in environmental justice: from inequity to everyday life, community, and just sustainabilities. *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, 41.

Bullard, R., (2018) Op-ed: Trump's Climate Report Makes Clear That Environmental Injustice Exists

Bennett, J. (2020, November 19). What if Instead of Calling People Out, We Called them In? *The New York Times*, p.1, D.

Pellow, D. N. (2000). Environmental Inequality Formation: Toward a Theory of Environmental Injustice. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 43(4), 581–601.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/0002764200043004004>

### Additional References:

[http://www.racialequityvtnea.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Interrupting-Bias\\_-Calling-Out-vs.-Calling-In-REVISED-Aug-2018-1.pdf](http://www.racialequityvtnea.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Interrupting-Bias_-Calling-Out-vs.-Calling-In-REVISED-Aug-2018-1.pdf)

Cole, L. W., & Foster, S. R. (2001). *From the ground up: Environmental racism and the rise of the environmental justice movement* (Vol. 34). NYU Press.

Pellow, D. N. (2017). *What is critical environmental justice?*. John Wiley & Sons.

[The Principles of Environmental Justice:](#) The First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit

### **Week 3: Systems, Frameworks and Approaches**

#### **Monday February 1:** Social Ecological Systems / Guest Speaker: Dr. Bill Currie

Clark, W.C., Kates, R.W., Richards, J.F., Mathews, J.T., Meyer, W.B., Turner, B.L., II, Pickett, S.T.A., Boone, C.G. and Cadenasso, M.L. (2007), Relationships of Environmental Justice to Ecological Theory. The Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America, 88: 166-170. [https://doi-org.proxy.lib.umich.edu/10.1890/0012-9623\(2007\)88\[166:ROEJTE\]2.0.CO;2](https://doi-org.proxy.lib.umich.edu/10.1890/0012-9623(2007)88[166:ROEJTE]2.0.CO;2)

Liu J, Dietz T, Carpenter SR, Alberti M, Folke C, Moran E, Pell AN, Deadman P, Kratz T, Lubchenco J, Ostrom E, Ouyang Z, Provencher W, Redman CL, Schneider SH, Taylor WW. Complexity of coupled human and natural systems. Science. 2007 Sep 14;317(5844):1513-6. doi: 10.1126/science.1144004. PMID: 17872436.

Ostrom, E. (2009). A general framework for analyzing sustainability of social-ecological systems. Science, 325(5939), 419-422.

National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center: <https://www.sesync.org/for-you/educator/teaching-resources/introduction-to-socio-environmental-synthesis-series>

Please look at the videos on the Intro to S-E Synthesis. There are 3 it should take you less than 1.5hrs. Total.

*Reading Response Due 10am ET*

#### **Wednesday February 3:** Systems and Interventions

*Assignment 1 Released February 3 / 1 Due February 8*  
[Student Led Discussion](#)

Additional References:

**Week 4: Governance, Power and Policy**

**Monday February 8:** Guest Speaker: Dr Maria Carmen Lemos

**Wednesday February 10:** Guest Speaker: Dr Maria Carmen Lemos

Goodrich, K. A., Sjostrom, K. D., Vaughan, C., Nichols, L., Bednarek, A., & Lemos, M. C. (2020). Who are boundary spanners and how can we support them in making knowledge more actionable in sustainability fields?. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, 42, 45-51.

Lemos, M. C., Arnott, J. C., Ardoin, N. M., Baja, K., Bednarek, A. T., Dewulf, A., ... & Wyborn, C. (2018). To co-produce or not to co-produce. *Nature Sustainability*, 1(12), 722-724.

Norström, A. V., Cvitanovic, C., Löf, M. F., West, S., Wyborn, C., Balvanera, P., ... & Österblom, H. (2020). Principles for knowledge co-production in sustainability research. *Nature Sustainability*, 3(3), 182-190.

Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Network <https://www.learnkala.com/cases/glcan>

*Assignment 2 Released / Due February 19*

[Student Led Discussion](#)



## **Week 5: Governance, Power and Policy**

**Monday February 15:** Sweetland Writing Center Workshop (Writing an Executive Summary and Policy Brief)

**Writing Samples to be reviewed before class**

**Wednesday February 17:** Guest Speaker: Dr. Arun Agrawal

Leach, M., B. Reyers, X. Bai, E. S. Brondizio, C. Cook, S. Díaz, G. Espindola, M. Scobie, M. Stafford-Smith, and S. M. Subramanian, 2018. Equity and sustainability in the Anthropocene: A social-ecological systems perspective on their intertwined futures. *Global Sustainability* 1(e13):1–13.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/sus.2018.12>

Leach, M. (2016). 27. Inequality and sustainability. *World Social Science Report*, 132.

*Assignment 2 Due February 19*

[Student Led Discussion](#)

**Week 6: Governance, Power and Policy / Exploring Individual Behavior Change, Education, Communication**

**Monday February 22:** Guest Speaker: Dr Sam Stolper

*Reading Response Due 10am ET*

**Wednesday February 24:** Introduction to Theme: Exploring Individual Behavior Change, Education, Communication

[Student Led Discussion](#)

**Week 7: Exploring Individual Behavior Change, Education, Communication**

**Monday March 1:** Guest Speaker: Dr. Raymond DeYoung

**De Young, Raymond. (2013). Environmental Psychology Overview. 10.13140/2.1.3933.8560.**

*Reading Response Due 10am ET*

**Wednesday March 3:** TBA

[Student Led Discussion](#)

**Week 8: Exploring Individual Behavior Change, Education, Communication  
/ Community Based Research Methods**

**Monday March 8:** Place Based Education in Flint Guests: Leyla Sanker, UM Flint

**Wednesday March 10:** Research Approaches: Community Based Participatory Research (CPBR)

*Assignment 3 Released / Due March 15*

[Student Led Discussion](#)

**Week 9: Community Based Research Methods**

**Monday March 15:** CPBR and Qualitative Research

**Wednesday March 17:** CPBR and Traditional Ecological Knowledge Guest Speaker: Dr. Maria Schaeffer

*Assignment 3 Due*

*Assignment 4 Released / Due March 22*

[Student Led Discussion](#)

**Week 10: Planning and Design: People and Placemaking**

*We are in conversation with a set of guest speakers who have not confirmed their dates for visiting our class. They will be filled in when confirmed.*

**Monday March 22:** TBA

**Wednesday March 24:** NO CLASS / WELL BEING BREAK (No Lecture Today)

*Assignment 4 Due March 22*

*NOTE: Discussion will be held this week*

**Week 11: Planning and Design: People and Placemaking**

**Monday March 29:** Guest Speaker: Joan Nassauer

*Reading Response Due 10am ET*

**Wednesday March 31:** Guest Speaker: Nicole Bartlett, NOAA North Atlantic Regional Coordinator

*Assignment 5 Released / Due April 5*

[Student Led Discussion](#)

**Week 12: Planning and Design: People and Placemaking**

**Monday April 5:** Guest Speaker: Nicole Bartlett, NOAA North Atlantic Regional Coordinator

**Wednesday April 7:** Guest Speaker Dr. Steven Yaffee



**Week 13: Organizing and Movement Building**

Monday April 12: Theories of Change

*Reading Response Due 10am ET*

**Wednesday April 14:** Guest Speaker Mona Munroe Younis, Environmental Transformation Movement of Flint

*Assignment 6 Released / Due April 21st*

**Week 14: Organizing and Movement Building / Final Class**

**Monday April 19: Final Class**

*Assignment 6 Due April 21st*