SNRE 501-055: Poverty, Environment, and Inequality
Fall 2013

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SNRE office: 2576 Dana  763-5327

Lecture Times/Place:  Tuesday, Thursday  11:30-1:00 a.m.  2024 Dana
Office Hours/Location:  Tuesday, Thursday  2:00-3:30 p.m.  2576 Dana  763-5327

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Paper I</td>
<td>Distributed on Sept. 19</td>
<td>DUE OCTOBER 10</td>
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<td>Paper II</td>
<td>Distributed on Oct. 22</td>
<td>DUE DECEMBER 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (take home)</td>
<td>Distributed on Dec. 5</td>
<td>DUE DECEMBER 18</td>
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<td>Class Participation</td>
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READINGS: Available at: On the Course CTools Website

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the relationship between poverty, environment and social inequality. It examines how race and class interact in American rural and urban environments to produce or sustain inequalities (the study of rural poverty includes a look at poverty on Indian reservations also). The course examines how structural factors and community characteristics influence environmental outcomes. Students will begin by examining the relationship between degraded environments and poor schooling. They will examine the environmental hazards that exist in urban and rural public schools; they will also assess how educational experiences influence aspirations and social outcomes. Students will analyze inner-city and poor rural communities as they examine disinvestment, the concentration of poverty, efforts to disperse the poor, and the potential for community revitalization. The class will examine how the rising cost of housing and shifts in housing policies have impacted urban communities. One result -- growing homelessness – is examined in the course. The course also examines another aspect of poverty – the issue of food security; it looks at the rise in community gardening in poor communities as an attempt to combat lack of access to healthy food. It also examines toxic food consumption.

Students will examine spatial inequalities that arise from the siting of hazardous facilities in minority and low-income urban and rural communities. The course examines the classic environmental justice question – which came first the facilities or the people? It examines economic questions related to costs of hosting noxious facilities and if and how communities can seek compensation to host such facilities. The course also examines the quandary communities face when presented with economic models that seek to provide compensation – the question of the long term health of the people and environment take center stage as community residents seek to determine how to balance economic development with concerns about sustainability. Students will also examine access to amenities such as parks, open space, and urban farming. The look at health hazards in public parks and inequities in the distribution and maintenance of these spaces as well as examine the challenges cities face in providing funding for parks. The final unit of the course examines two aspects of sustainability – ecovillages and climate justice.
UNIT I: structural inequality and quality of life

WEEK 1: education, urban poverty and social inequality.

Sept. 3: The relationship between educational and environmental inequalities in East St. Louis.


Sept 5: The relationship between race and aspirations


Education and environment in East St. Louis


WEEK 2: education, rural poverty and social inequality

Sept. 10: Educational attainment and aspirations in Appalachia.


Sept. 12: Education, social and exposure to agricultural industrial pollution in rural communities.


UNIT II: URBAN COMMUNITIES - DISINVESTMENT, DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION, CONCENTRATION OF POVERTY, AND RENEWAL

WEEK 3:

The concentration of poverty and food insecurity

Sept. 17: The underclass debate and the concentration of poverty.


Sept. 19: Social capital, infrastructure, food deserts, and food oases.


PAPER I DISTRIBUTED TODAY!!

WEEK 4:

Food insecurity and land vacancy in cities

Sept. 24: Poverty, race, health, food security and urban agriculture.


**Sept 26:** Land vacancy and urban agriculture.


**WEEK 5:** Social capital, organizational capacity, and urban renewal

**Oct. 1:** Revitalization of inner cities; eminent domain.


**UNIT III:** HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

**WEEK 5:** Poverty and lack of housing

**Oct. 3:** Homelessness.


**WEEK 6:** Poverty and lack of housing

Oct. 8: Public housing: The HOPE VI model.


**UNIT IV:** POVERTY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

**WEEK 6:** Poverty and health

Oct. 10: Poverty and ill-health.


**PAPER I DUE IN CLASS TODAY!!!**
WEEK 7: Pesticides, air pollution and poverty.

Oct. 15: Fall Break
No class held today

Oct. 17: Pesticides exposure and other occupational hazards faced by farmworkers


UNIT V: RACE, FOOD CONSUMPTION, AND POLLUTION

WEEK 8: Air Pollution and toxic food consumption.


PAPER II DISTRIBUTED TODAY!!


**WEEK 9: Pollution and toxic food consumption, continued.**

**Oct. 29:** Toxic food consumption – Hispanics.


**Oct. 31:** Pollution and toxic food consumption on Native American reservations


UNIT VI: ZONING, FACILITY SITING, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

WEEK 10: Race, class, space and environmental hazards

Nov. 5: Transportation and storage of hazardous wastes on Native American reservations.

Environmental Health Perspectives, 111 (3, Mar.): 263-272


Nov. 7: Zoning, residential segregation, and exposure to environmental hazards


WEEK 11: Facility siting, regulation, and taxation

Nov. 12: Shintech, Cancer Alley, and the Path of Least Resistance.


Nov. 14: Regulation, taxation, and the siting of waste management facilities

STAFFORD, Sarah (2000). “The Impact of Environmental Regulations on the Location of Firms in


**WEEK 12:** Landfill siting and host community compensation

**Nov. 19:** The economics of landfills


**Nov. 21:** Land values, community demographic changes, and the siting of hazardous facilities.


UNIT VII: SUSTAINABILITY

WEEK 13: Landfill conversion

Nov. 26: Parks and playground: development and hazards


Nov. 28: THANKSGIVING BREAK

NO CLASS HELD.

WEEK 14: Urban park financing, land vacancy and open space

Dec. 3: Urban park financing


Student presentations

PAPER II DUE IN CLASS TODAY!!!

Dec. 5: Ecovillages and social justice


Student presentations

FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED TODAY!!!
WEEK 15:  Climate change and environmental justice.

Dec. 10:  Climate Justice


Student presentations

WEEK 16:

Dec. 18:  EXAM DUE BY 3:00 P.M. IN ROOM 2576 DANA or in Dorceta Taylor’s mailbox in the Dana Building