Syllabus[[1]](#footnote--1)

Environmental Studies 3600

Environmental Justice and Sustainability

Bemidji State University

1 Contact Information

Josefina Li

Office: Sattgast 127

Phone: (218) 755-2910

Office Hours: drop in or by appointment

E-Mail:jli@bemidjistate.edu

2 Class Meeting

MWF 2:00pm-2:50pm, S203

3 Pre-requisites

ENVR 2000: Introduction to Environmental Studies or consent of the instructor

4 Course Description

The course investigates the ethical and moral dimensions of environmental choices, and the legal, philosophical, political, and economic underpinnings of various theories of justice. A major focus is the inequitable distribution of environmental risks and the implications of policies that attempt to combat these risks.

5 Textbook

Required: Van DeVeer, Donald and Christine Pierce, The Environmental Ethics and Policy Book, 2nd: Ed. Wadsworth Publishing Company. ISBN: 0-534-54534-5

Recommended: The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution, Bullard, Robert D. (ed)

Additional readings (both required and recommended) are available online on aa`the Desire2Learn course website.

6 Course Policies

* Professionalism: This class is one of your first professional environments, so we will define and practice quality behavior. Behaviors such as arriving late, being unprepared, missing class, texting, non-course work related laptop usage, shirking group work, turning in work late, not doing your own work, or other less desirable behaviors. Please refrain from talking to those around you, when I or one of your classmates is talking to the whole class. Even if you have a quick question like, “What did she just say?", instead of whispering the question to your neighbor, just ask me. Never be afraid to ask any question in class. I am happy to spend class time answering any questions you may have. If you do not understand the material, it is likely that others in the class have the same question.
* My intent is rather to help you lay the groundwork for excellence, and so your professional demeanor towards this class counts heavily. Please feel free to discuss these matters with me or the class. In cases of serious infractions, I will follow University policies for academic honesty and plagiarism.
* Attendance: Attendance is mandatory for the successful completion of the course. Excused absences are acceptable. Regardless of the reason for an absence, students are still responsible for the material they have missed.
* Email: Almost all of the communication is through university email, thus it is particularly important for students to check email frequently. I welcome emails in regard to readings, homework problems, and even current debates. Please note that I will only receive and respond to emails during business hours. Your email should also display professionalism, that is it should always be written in a professional tone, spell checked, grammar checked and proof read before sending out and your question should not have its answers be found on the syllabus or in class announcements.
* Quizzes: At beginning of some class period, minute paper is used to answer to questions about the assigned readings. At the end of some class period, minute paper is also used to answer questions about today’s class material.
* Short Essay Papers: There will be 2 short essays assigned throughout the course. It will be a set essay question, which students will have to respond to. The length of each essay is at minimum 1500 words and should not exceed 2000 words. In each essay students will reference the course readings. A bibliography must be attached. The paper and bibliography must conform to MLA, APA or Chicago styles. For help with writing academic papers, please refer to the writing center.
* Final research paper: Students will choose a topic of their interest to work on throughout the course, and present the final work at the end of the semester. The topic must be related to the course, and approved by the instructor. It is a research paper, so outside sources are recommended for a good quality research paper. The paper should be around 5000 words for the undergraduates, and 7000 words for the graduate students. In addition to the paper, the graduate students are also asked to do a self-assessment.
* Make-up Work: There will be no make-up work. Anyone who is unable to turn in assignments at the due date because of a University sanctioned event, or any other excused absence, must turn that work in advance of the scheduled time. Late work will be penalized 10% per day.
* Extra Credit: There is no extra credit in this class.

7 Grading

Grades are assigned based upon the quality of their work. The writing assignments will assess each student’s ability to draw from the course materials and to critically argue for or against a position in regard to environmental justice. Rubric will be given prior to the assignments.

7.1 Grade Weights

The final grade is weighted as follows:

Short Paper 1: 20%

Short Paper 2: 20%

Quizzes: 20%

Final Paper: 25%

Presentation: 15%

8 Tentative Class Outline

**8.1 Review**

Externality/Social Cost

Cost Benefit Analysis

Tragedy of the Commons

-Kapp, Karl W. “Social Cost of Business Enterprise”

-James Swaney, “Common Property, Reciprocity, and Community,” Journal of Economic  Issues, 24/2, June, 1990.

-V&P Section V

**8.2 Deep Ecology and Social Ecology**

-“Deep Ecology and Social Ecology: Preview” V&P

-Devall, Bill and George Sessions “Deep Ecology” V&P

-Naess Arne “Self-Realization: An Ecological Approach to Being in the world” V&P

-“Will Ecology Become ‘The Dismal Science’” V&P

**8.3 Ecofeminism**

- “Econfeminism: Preview" V&P pp. 237-240. (second edition) pp. 279 (3rd edition)

- Warren, Karen “The Power and the Promise of Ecological Feminism" V&P pp. 257-271. (second edition) pp.282 (third edition)

- Davion, Victoria “How Feminist is Ecofeminism?" V&P pp. 278-285. (second edition) pp. 303 (third edition)

-Shiva, Vandana “Development, Ecology, and Women" V&P pp. 271-277.

**8.4 Buddhist Economics and more**

- Frances Moore Lappe and J. Baird Callicott, “Individual and Community in Society and  Nature”

- E. F. Schumacher, “Buddhist Economics,” on D2L.

- V&P (skim articles in section IV.A.)

1st Short Paper

**8.5 Environmental Racism**

- Grossman, Karl “Environmental Racism" V&P pp. 553-558 (second edition) pp. 550 (3rd edition)

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM:

Case Study: Houston

Bullard, Robert D. “Neighborhoods Zoned for Garbage" in Bullard (ed.) *The Quest for* *Environmental Justice*, Sierra Club Books, pp. 43-61

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM:

Case Study: Lousianna

Wright, Beverly “Living and Dying in Louisiana's Cancer Alley" in Bullard (ed.) *The Quest for Environmental Justice*, Sierra Club Books, pp. 87-106

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM: Case Study, Los Angeles

Pastor, Manuel Jr. and James L. Sadd “Environmental Inequity in Metropolitan Los

Angeles" in Bullard (ed.) *The Quest for Environmental Justice,* Sierra Club Books, pp.

108-124

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM: Case Study, Los Angeles (won’t go over in class)

Garcia, Robert and Erica Flores “Anatomy of the Urban Parks Movement: Equal Justice,

Democracy, and Livability in Los Angeles" in Bullard (ed.) *The Quest for Environmental*

*Justice,* Sierra Club Books, pp. 145-167

RACISM AGAINST NATIVE PEOPLES

Gedicks, Al. “Resource Wars against Native People" in Bullard (ed.) *The Quest for Environmental Justice,* Sierra Club Books, pp. 168-187

Leech Lake Superfund

ENVIRONMENTAL REPARATIONS

Collin Robert Morris, and Collin Robert W. (2002) “Environmental Reparations for Sustainability and Justice" Second National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit II, Resource Paper Series, October 23, 2002. (available on D2L)

Collin Robert Morris, and Collin Robert “Environmental Reparations" in Bullard (ed.)

*The Quest for Environmental Justice,* Sierra Club Books, pp. 209-221.

**8.6 “Trade and Development" and the Environment**

-N. Shanmugaratnam (1989) “Development and Environment: A View from the South,"

Race and Class, 30/3, January-March, 1989.

-Monbiot, George “The Tragedy of Enclosure" V&P pp. 360-362.

-Forstater, Mathew (2002) “Bones for Sale: 'development', Environment and Food Security in East Africa," Review of Political Economy, Vol.14, No. 1, pp.47-67.

-“A Third World Critique" V&P 515-522.

-Third World Network (1989) “Toxic Waste Dumping in the Third World," Race and

Class, 30/3, January-March, 1989.

-PBS Frontline Video “Digital Dumping Ground" found online

2nd short paper

**8.7 Sustainability**

-Partridge Ernest, “Future Generations" V&P pp. 428-436

-Solow, Robert “Sustainability: An Economist's Perspective" V&P pp.438-443

-Goodin, Robert “Sustainability", V&P pp. 443-449.

-Goodland, Robert “The Case That the World has Reached Limits" V&P 598-607

-Daly, Herman (2008) “A Steady-State Economy: A failed growth economy and a steady-State economy are not the same thing; they are the very different alternatives we face."

**8.8 Environmental Problems and Policies**

-skim V&P pp.451-622, pay attention to Russow, Jackson, Norton, Michaels.

-Forstater, Mathew (2003) Public Employment and Environmental Sustainability," -Journal of Post Keynesian Economics, Vol. 25, No. 3, pp. 385-406

-Forstater, Mathew (2006) “Green Jobs: Public Service Employment and Environmental

Sustainability" Challenge Vol. 49, No. 4. pp.58-72.

**8.9 Varieties of Activism/Grass Root Initiatives**

-V&P pp. 625-643

-Forstater, Mathew (2001) “Community Service Job Assurance for the Prospect Corridor

Initiative," Special Report 2001/2, Center for Full Employment and Price Stability, University of Missouri - Kansas City (June 2001).

Presentations

9 Academic Integrity Statement

BSU students are expected to practice the highest standards of ethics, honesty and integrity in all of their academic work. Any form of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating and misrepresentation may result in disciplinary action. Possible disciplinary actions may include failure for part of or all of a course as well as suspension from the University.

10 Students with Special Needs Statement

Upon request this document can be made available in alternate formats. Please contact Kathi Hagen at Disabilities Services at (218) 755-3883 for assistance or call at 262-6753 or (800) 369-4970.

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