

International Environmental Justice

2 credits

M-W, 8:30-9:50

Summer 2008

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Class Objectives: The study of environmental justice requires an interdisciplinary perspective to consider the social, economic, political, and legal issues governing the human/environment interaction. The International Environmental Justice class will begin with an overview of the domestic movement in order to highlight particular universal themes. The class will then examine global case studies of environmental injustices and potential legal, regulatory, and global grassroots responses to these cases.

Class grades: Grades will be based on student attendance and participation (20%), and a final exam (80%). Participation is integral to the class. Students must come to class prepared to discuss class readings and to participate in assigned group presentations.

Class texts: Course packet.

Syllabus

Week One: Introduction and overview of environmental justice.

Tuesday, 6/17: What is environmental justice?

Pincus, Fred "Discrimination Comes in Many Forms: Individual, Institutional, and Structural," *American Behavioral Scientist*, v40n2 p186 (1996).

Kuehn, Robert "A Taxonomy of Environmental Justice," 30 *ELR* 10681 (2000).

"Principles of Environmental Justice," Adopted at the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, Washington, D.C. October 24-27 1991.

Wednesday, 6/18: Environmental justice in the United States, legal responses and a domestic case study.

"Litigation as a Response" from: Rechtschaffen, Clifford and Guana, Eileen *Environmental Justice, Law Policy and Regulation* (2003).

Video: Times Beach, Missouri.

Week Two: From domestic to global, conceptualization and case studies.

Monday, 6/23: Conceptualization of global environmental justice and case studies.

Roberts, J. Timmons “Globalizing Environmental Justice,” from Environmental Justice and Environmentalism (2007).

Tuesday, 6/24: International case studies presentations

Case studies:

- Agbola, Tunde and Alabi, Moruf “Political Economy of Petroleum Resources Development, Environmental Injustice and Select Victimization: A Case Study of the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria,” from Just Sustainabilities, Development in an Unequal World (2003).
- Di Chiro, Giovanna “Indigenous Peoples and Biocolonialism” Defining the ‘Science of Environmental Justice’ in the Century of the Gene,” from Environmental Justice and Environmentalism (2007).
- Kwapinski, Modest “Case Study of Docket No11-03 against Standard Fruit Company of Costa Rica, S.A.”
- McCaffrey, Katherine T. “The Struggle for Environmental Justice in Vieques, Puerto Rico,” from Environmental Justice in Latin America (2008).
- Wolford, Wendy “Environmental Justice and Agricultural Development in the Brazilian *Cerrado*,” from Environmental Justice in Latin America (2008).
- Wu, Changhua and Wang, Simon “Environment, Development and Human Rights in China: A Case Study of Foreign Waste Dumping,” from Human Rights and the Environment, Conflict and Norms in a Globalizing World (2002).

Wednesday, 6/25: Guest Lecture - Michael Siebecker. Corporate Social Responsibility and the Law.

Excerpts from:

- The Economist, January 22, 2005
- Craver, Richard “Not a Bade Bet: Vice Fund’s Returned Indicated that People are Always Going to Drink, Smoke and Gamble,” Winston-Salem Journal, January 21, 2007.

Please Note: Before class please read and consider the questions on Professor Siebecker’s instruction page, which is included in your reading packet.

Week Three: Responses to global environmental injustices – background on globalization, transnational accountability and free trade.

Monday, 6/30: Globalization.

Clapp, Jennifer and Dauvergne, Peter “The Ecological Consequences of Globalization” from Paths to a Green World (2005).

Tuesday, 7/1: Transnational accountability.

Mason, Michael “Transnational Accountability for Environmental Harm: A Framework” from The New Accountability: Environmental Responsibility Across Borders (2005).

Wednesday, 7/2: Trade agreements – a critique.

Newell, Peter “Contesting Trade Politics in the Americas: The Politics of Environmental Justice,” from Environmental Justice in Latin America (2008).

Week Four: Responses to global environmental injustices – human rights and environment.

Monday, 7/7: Overview of human rights and environment.

Hunter, David, Salzman, James and Zaelke, Durwood “Human Rights and Environment” (Sections I and II) from International Environmental Law and Policy (2007).

Tuesday, 7/8: Human rights and environment cont’d - institutions.

Hunter, David, Salzman, James and Zaelke, Durwood “Human Rights and Environment” (Section III) from International Environmental Law and Policy (2007).

Wednesday, 7/9: Human rights and environment cont’d - current issues and tools.

Hunter, David, Salzman, James and Zaelke, Durwood “Human Rights and Environment” (Sections IV) from International Environmental Law and Policy (2007).

Week Five: Responses to global environmental injustices – human rights and environment.

Monday, 7/14: Guest Lecture – Thomas Ruppert. Human Right to Communal Property.

Tuesday, 7/15: Focus on the Inter-American Human Rights System

Taillant, Jorge Daniel “Environmental Advocacy and the Inter-American Human Rights System” from Linking Human Rights and the Environment (2005).

Wednesday, 7/16: Inter American Commission and Court cases presentations.

Case studies:

- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Report # 75-02, Case 11.140, Mary and Carrie Dann, United States, December 27, 2002.

- Inter-American Court of Human Rights, The Case of the Mayagna (Sumo) Awa Tingni Community v. Nicaragua, August 31, 2001.
- Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Report #40/04, Case 12.053, Maya Indigenous Communities of the Toledo District, Belize, October 12, 2004.
- Corte InterAmericana de Derechos Humanos, Caso Comunidad Indigena Yakye Axa vs. Paraguay, 17 de Junio de 2005 (Spanish version).

Week Six: Grassroots responses to global environmental injustices

Monday, 7/21: Grassroots globalization.

Evans, Peter “Fighting Marginalization with Transnational Networks: Counter Hegemonic Globalization” *Contemporary Sociology* 29(1) 230-241 (2000).

Tuesday, 7/22: Global community and individual activism.

“Principles of Working Together,” adapted at the Second People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, Washington D.C. October 26, 2002.

Pellow, David Naguib “Transnational Movement Networks for Environmental Justice” from Resisting Global Toxics (2007).

Kalan, Heeten and Peek, Bobby “South African Perspectives on Transnational Environmental Justice Networks” from Power, Justice, and the Environment (2005).

Ilel, Neille “A Healthy Dose of Anarchy” *Reason Magazine*, December 2006.

Wednesday, 7/23: Personal responses and exam review

Jamieson, Dale “Justice: The Heart of Environmentalism” from Environmental Justice and Environmentalism (2007).

Exam review

Monday, 7/28: Final Exam