ENST 360 – Environmental Justice

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Instructor
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Office hours
Tues, Wed., Thurs. 1:00-2:00 p.m. or by appointment

Syllabus contents

Course description

This interdisciplinary online course explores the concept of environmental justice and the people and communities impacted by environmental problems and crises with attention to influences of class, gender, race, and ethnicity. We examine impacts of economic development and government policy on creation of environmental hazards. We evaluate responses and strategies of communities, movements, and governments in the U.S. and other countries. We also assess the political and environmental importance of responding to environmental problems with justice as a central concern.

Learner outcomes

Recognize and explain causal influences of colonialism, commodification of land and labor, and capitalism in environmental and social justice problems/crises
Identify and describe roles of policy-making, regulation, and law in environmental protection
Distinguish concerns, objectives, and strategies of environmental justice movements and climate justice movements
Observe, describe, and explain particular environmental justice cases
Demonstrate influences of class, race, ethnicity, and gender on how environmental problems impact people and communities
Propose and evaluate potential strategies for environmental justice activists and their communities
Summarize and assess achievements of the environmental justice movement and identify and describe emerging challenges as natural and political environments change

Resources

For online students

Carefully review information on technology presented at CWU's Online Learning site: http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/technology-requirements. There you will find all necessary information about technology requirements and links to download browsers, plug-ins, and programs.

Use either **Firefox or Google Chrome** to best interact with Canvas.

You will need **Adobe Reader** and you can obtain it **free** at http://get.adobe.com/reader/.

Some materials are presented as Microsoft Word documents (.doc or .docx), and submitting assignments prepared using Word is required. Sign in to this website to download **Office 365, free for currently enrolled CWU students**: https://products.office.com/en-us/student/office-in-education.

The Wildcat Shop sometimes has good bargains on software. Cat Tech offers hardware, repair of Apple products, and buys some used hardware for cash: https://wildcatshop.net/c-4-cat-tech.aspx .

Materials presented at CWU's Online Student Resource Center are designed primarily for students enrolled in fully online degree programs, but students taking online classes may also find them helpful. See http://www.cwu.edu/student-achievement/online-student-resource-center .

Canvas

Canvas is the Learning Management System we use for our course. We will use Modules, Pages, Quizzes, People, Discussions, Conferences, and other Canvas tools.

Our course is organized as a series of **Modules in Canvas**. Modules present assignments you must complete. Complete them in the order they are presented. In some cases, it is necessary to complete all Module work before moving on to the next Module.

Canvas Pages provide information about topics, information about assignments, and instructions. Before getting started with module work, carefully read the Page(s) associated with the Module! Note that Module Pages themselves are required readings. You receive quiz points for reading them. (Canvas tools enable instructors to see what students access and do in Canvas.)

If you are new to Canvas, you can reference **Canvas guides** as needed. See https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701

You can get help while working in Canvas by clicking the "Help" icon at the bottom of the column at the left side of the screen. You can chat online in real time with a technician who can provide immediate assistance or send a message requesting assistance. You can also call the Canvas Support Hotline toll-free: (877) 399-8897.

Here is a link to CWU's Canvas Help and Support for Students webpage: http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/canvas-help-and-support-students.

We may use Canvas Conferences. Here is a link to a Canvas guide on using Conferences: https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-8075 . This content is linked at CWU's Online Learning webpage on technology tools. See http://www.cwu.edu/online-learning/how-do-i-usetechnology-tools.

Reading materials

Online classes require a lot of reading. Experienced students with upper-division college reading skills should expect to spend an average of about 4-6 hours/week reading. Please keep in mind that the amount of time you need to keep up with reading will depend in part on your time-management skills. Open-book reading quizzes will help you identify and interpret key points in readings.

There is no textbook to purchase. Readings will be posted on Canvas at Module Pages.

Module Pages themselves are required readings. You receive quiz points for reading them. (Canvas tools enable instructors to see what students access and do in Canvas.)

Internet environmental news services

Subscribe to these right away:

Sightline Daily is a service of the Sightline Institute, an independent, non-profit research and communications institute established in 1993 to equip the Northwest's citizens and decision-makers with the policy research and practical tools they need to advance long-term solutions to our region's most significant challenges. Sightline Daily is delivered to your e-mail account daily. The 10 linked stories are picked from more than 120 media outlets from the Northwest and beyond. Go to https://www.sightline.org/signup/ to sign up.

Environment 360 is an online publication of Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies that offers reporting, analysis, opinion, and debate. Go to https://e360.yale.edu/newsletter and sign up for their newsletter to get a weekly update of the latest content delivered to you by email.

Videos

You will need to access videos and movies online. Some may be available at no cost. Some will be available only through Netflix or Amazon. You might have to pay to access some.

Your instructor

I got my PhD in political science from the University of Oregon. My studies in environmental politics explore movements and cultural politics in Latin America, the US, and Canada. I have an MA in Latin American Studies from the University of Arizona and got my BA in political science at CWU long, long ago.

Contact me anytime you have questions or need assistance figuring out what to do or how to do it! I check my email and the course site frequently and will respond to you promptly. I am available during office hours or by appointment. Call me at 509-963-1842.

Course components

Quizzes

Quizzes are open-book exercises that serve as study guides. They draw your attention to some of the major points in readings and other course materials and help you measure your comprehension. If you need clarification on a point or concept before you submit your quiz, "raise your hand" right away by contacting me. You will receive feedback on your quizzes. Note: Module Pages are required readings and you receive quiz points for reading them.

Discussions

Discussions offer you the chance to propose and evaluate potential strategies for environmental justice activists and their communities.

Case blogs

You will publish three case "blog" posts over the course of the term to share descriptions and your explanations of particular environmental justice cases related to course topic areas.

Response papers

Two response papers offer you the chance to distinguish concerns, objectives, and strategies of environmental justice activists.

Essay

In lieu of taking a final exam, you will write an essay that summarizes and assesses achievements of the environmental justice movement and identifies and describes emerging challenges as natural and political environments change.

Assessment

Grade distribution

Component	% value
Quizzes	20%
Discussions	20%
Case blog posts	30%
Response papers (2)	20%
Essay	10%

Grading scale

Grade	% range
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-88
B	87-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-78
C	77-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-68
D	67-63
D-	62-60

Course policies

Communication and feedback

- Contact me whenever you have questions, need assistance, or want feedback. **I am happy to help** however I can to enable you succeed, and I respond promptly to messages (within 24 hours and sooner, if possible).

- Log in to Canvas every day and carefully read announcements.

- Check the Canvas inbox and your CWU email account on a daily basis and please respond promptly to messages.

- I welcome all the feedback you may wish to provide on the course! If you have suggestions about how to make assignments more valuable or due dates more reasonable, etc., let me know. This will help not just you and me, but others in the class now and those who take it in the future.

Missed or make-up work

- If an emergency prevents you from completing required coursework on time, communicate with me right away.

- Make arrangements **in advance** before submitting late work.

- Missed course requirements are entered into grades as "0" points.

University policies

Academic integrity and student conduct

You must complete all coursework and assignments using your own original ideas and own words. You must properly cite the ideas and words of others. Sanctions for plagiarism range from failure of a particular assignment to suspension from the university.

Be honest and respectful in your interactions with other students and your instructor.

Expectations of student conduct and specific student responsibilities are established by the University *and by Washington state law*. See the CWU Catalog for more information. See the Washington state

Student Conduct Code (which includes proscribed conduct and disciplinary sanctions) at http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=106-125.

On student success, rights, and responsibilities

Link here to the Office of the Dean of Student Success: http://www.cwu.edu/student-success/

Link here to CWU's Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities: http://www.cwu.edu/student-rights/

Special needs

Students with disabilities wishing to arrange academic adjustments in this class must register with Disability Services (DS). Once you register with DS, they arrange requested adjustments with instructors. Visit http://www.cwu.edu/disability-support/requesting-student-accommodations, email DS@cwu.edu or call (509) 963-2214 to get information about the DS intake process.

Preliminary course schedule

- This is the preliminary schedule, for weeks 1-2. See course schedule updates for information on upcoming weeks. Updates are posted regularly and you will receive notifications when they are available.

- Unless otherwise specified, coursework is **due at midnight** on dates indicated.

- Discussions will always require initial posts and final posts. **Due dates shown on Canvas at "Syllabus" are dates by which FINAL Discussion posts are due.** Schedule updates and Discussion instructions provide all deadlines for posts.

WEEK	TOPICS	COURSEWORK (SEE PAGES IN CANVAS FOR MORE INFO.)	DUE DATES
1 1/3-1/6	Module 1 Introductions	➢ **Module 1** • Canvas profile bio • Interest inventory • Read Gottlieb chapter • Begin Reading Quiz 1 ("RQ1") on Gottlieb and Newton chapters	✓**1/5:** Deadline for posting profile & completing interest inventory
2 1/7-1/13	Module 2 What is environmental in/justice?	➢ **Module 2** • Read other students' Canvas profile bios • Read Newton chapter • Complete RQ1 • Discussion 1 ("D1")	✓**1/7:** D1, 1st posts due ✓**1/10:** D1, final posts due ✓**1/11:** RQ1 due