I. Sociology of the Environment

A. All societies/cultures understand and define the natural world in different ways.

B. Different understandings of the natural world lead to

various cultures having different:

1. relationships to the natural world.

2. experiences with the natural world.

3. practices toward the natural world.

C. In sum: every society has a dominant world view

regarding the natural world aka the environment

D. As a way of explaining this contrast the traditional Navajo

world view with the dominant world view of Western and

American society.

E. Traditional Navajo

1. Natural world is sacred, or holy place.

a. Dinetah, sacred land

b. Four sacred mountains

2. The earth is a living breathing entity in an

animate world.

3. All beings whether animal, bird, insect, plant has:

a. a spirit

b. controls power

c. teaches a lesson

d. and has its place in the natural order

4. There is an order to this world and the goal of

human beings ought to be to find one's place in the

order.

5. Hozho, or the beauty way of life.

a. K'e

b. humility

c. harmony

d. respect for all living things

6. This relationship is the primary and most important

relationship for the culture/society.

7. Above is reflected in cultural and religious practices.

a. corn and the prayer at sunrise

b. shape of homes or hogans

c. relationships with animals

i. creations stories

ii. moral stories

iii. hunting

F. Western culture

1. Human beings are "lords of the earth"

a. qualitative difference between humans

and other beings, i.e. soul or reason

b. hierarchical: humans at top

c. power to shape the world and create their own destiny

i. science discovers the laws of nature

ii. technology transforms discovery

into power over nature

d. they have the power to predict and control

the consequences of their transformations

2. Natural world exists as "standing reserve," or a

resource

a. waiting to be transformed into a commodity.

b. waiting to be adapted as a source of power

c. private property

d. profit

3. Natural world has no inherent value, and

non-human beings have no inherent or intrinsic value.

4. Cultures which don't recognize the truth of the

above, like the Navajo, are "primitive," 'backward."

G. Influences on Westen society's world view.

1. Christianity

a. text

b. Church decisions

c. Puritans

d. manifest destiny

2. Science

a. world as calculable

b. predictable

c. controllable

3. Capitalism

a. world as potential commodity

b. private property

c. profit

d. sink and garbage dump

I. Institutional Racism

A. Consequences

1. systematic exclusion from opportunity for millions

a. education

b. work

2. limited access to social resources

a. health care

b. housing

c. social and governmental support

3. limited control over the direction of society and

one's life

a. political disenfranchisement

b. 90,000 "scrubbed" from Florida's list

c. standing in line forever

4. profiling

a. criminal justice system

b. pollution and toxic dumping

B. Structure

1. Most important factor is residential segregation

2. Because of residential segregation their is segregation

in education

a. schools are funded by property taxes

b. minorities disproportionate represented among the poor

c. schools underfunded

i. lack of resources

ii. lack of quality education

iii. uneducated, undereducated

3. This reinforces job segregation and the fact that

blacks and Hispanics make 60% of what whites make

4. These jobs explain those inequalities in last lecture

a. don't usually have benefits

b. don't pay enough for quality housing

c. make hunger a problem

d. force the people to be dependent

C. De facto segregation

1. Early twentieth century

a. automation in farming in US

b. continued industrialization

c. black migratrion

2. 1950s

a. suburbanization

b. white flight

c. loss of tax base

d. loss of jobs

3. Policies of exclusion

a. restrictive covenants

b. Levit

4. Blacks in urban ghetto

a. deteriorating infrastructure

b. loss of jobs

5. Globalization

a. loss of more jobs in manufacturing

b. blacks hardest hit

c. loss of jobs in third world, increased migration

legal and illegal to US urban areas

d. continuing loss of revenue

6. Federal Abandonement

a. no federal resources

b. HUD as wealthfare

8. Urban Renewal

a. stadiums

b. tax abatements to corporations

c. free ways

d. inner city smog, asthma

e. gentrification

9. Hospitals and housing

10. Police profiling

D. Environmental racism

1. Benjamin Chavez study: race is the factor that correlates most directly with dumping of toxic and

hazardous waste.

a. illegal commercial hazardous dumping

b. worst industrial pollution

c. location of legal toxic waste sites

d. hospital waste

e. cancer corridors

f. location of nuclear waste sits

2. consequences

a. blacks die of asthma at 3x the rate of whites,

and in some inner cities black children have a

50% asthma rate

b. over one third of black urban preschoolers have

lead poisoning

c. pesticide poisoning is highest among migrant farm workers

d. environmentally caused cancers are higher amon

minorities, esp native Americans that have born

the brunt of the nuclear age

3. EPA

a. less vigorous enforcement of laws and regulations

in minority areas

b. lower fines (1/5th) and lesser penalties

c. lower standards for cleanups

E. Who benefits from institutional racism?

1. Corporations by having a desparate work force that

depresses wages and can be used to break strikes

2. Corporations and society has people to do the dirty and

dangerous jobs.

3. Merchants benefit because they can charge a surtax on

goods and services