Metropolitan State University

Ethnic & Religious Studies Department

Environmental Justice and Public Policy Syllabus

4 Credits

Course: ETHS 304-51 Environmental Justice and Public Policy
Semester Offered: fall 2020 (20213)
Time and Place: Online
Instructor: Victor B. Cole
Email: victor.cole@metrostate.edu (all email subject/RE: ETHS 304-51 fa 2020, Lastname)
Office Hours: Make an appointment / ZOOM meeting / https://calendly.com/victorcole/academic-internship-information-advising-session?month=2020-09

Course Description:
This class focuses on the history and background of the social and environmental issues confronting racial and ethnic communities in the United States. Students learn about the practice and politics of ecological inequality, community initiatives which have developed to combat such inequality, and how environmental justice has emerged as a viable and powerful political movement. This course is useful to students interested in environment and public policy as well as racial and ethnic studies.

Course Competence and Learning Objectives:
Students are expected to be able to converse, depict, and write about environmental racism, injustice, inequity in U.S. past and present-day life and globally-useful environmental justice frameworks well enough to apply course content to their personal life, career, community work, and course work in their fields of study.

General Education and Liberal Studies:
This course meets Goal 10: People and the Environment and Goal 5: History and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course students will be able to do the following:

- Determine how **inter-sectionalities** of socially-constructed identities impact exposure and protective factors to environmental injustice and capabilities to mobilize against environmental inequality.
- Explain the origins, influences, and strategies on worldwide environmental justice movements through comparative and interdisciplinary approaches.
- Integrate and apply environmental justice frameworks into the wide variety of issues and environmental struggles impacting contemporary and historical communities of color, poor communities, and Indigenous Peoples.
- Question the efficacy, efficiency, and equity within current public policy directions in achieving environmental justice goals.
- Understand the multidimensional characteristics of key terms such as but not limited to environmental racism, environment, nature, wilderness, public policy, food security, **xenobiotic**, the north/south divide, the **Columbian Exchange**, ecological citizenship, and the many types of justice.
- Make innumerable connections between the course material and contemporary life.
- Be able to use **key terms** such as expanded environmental justice framework, environmental racism, place attachment, place and trauma, social determinants of health, public policy, **neoliberalism**, and ecological citizenship.
- Understand the different socio-cultural meanings and relationships to place and nature.
- Apply the expanded environmental justice framework.
- Discuss patterns and inter-relationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
- Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious, and scientific) that are evolving to deal with environmental, environmental justice, and natural resource challenges.
- Critically evaluate environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about power, race, and class interrelationships, ecosystems, business interests, and institutions.

- Articulate and defend the choices and actions related to various environmental and environmental justice issues.

Learning Strategies:

- Reading assigned books, articles, and classmates' comments
- Writing assignments based on readings, discussions, and events
- Utilizing critical thinking skills in all aspects of learning
- Engaging dialogue in whole class and small group
- Attending community events, as found in your community or suggested
- Accessing research and resources and evidence to support or refute readings

Required Texts:
Quest for Environmental Justice
Author: Bullard
Edition: N/A   ISBN: 9781578051205 Copyright Year: 2005 Publisher: Sierra Club Books
Epitaph for a Peach
Author: Masumoto
ISBN: 9780062510259 Copyright Year: 1995 Publisher: Harper Collins Publishers
Fresh Fruit, Broken Bodies
Author: Holmes
ISBN: 9780520275140 Copyright Year: 2013 Publisher: University of California Press
Articles:
Various articles can be accessed on the D2L course page.

Textbooks:
Course Notes and Readings on D2L

Course Accomplishments

Task	100 Points
Online Discussion Projects beginning in Week 2	35 points (5 points each for 7 discussions)
Two Page Altered Book	30 points
Case Study Brochure or Newsletter	35 points

Points Grade Range:

A 97-100	A- 90-96	
B+ 87-89	B 84-86	B- 80-83
C+ 77-79	C 74-76	C- 70-73
D 60-69	F 59 and below	

Important Information

Attendance Policy:
Attendance will be taken in the online weeks through participation in the discussions and using the log-in recorder that is embedded into the course.

Class Handouts and late assignments:
This course allows for a one week flexible submit date or "grace" period for assignments except for online discussion projects and those due during the last two weeks of the course. In rare and exceptional circumstances and with evidence of those exceptional circumstances that get approval from the instructors, assignments may be submitted after this one week grace period. These assignments turned in beyond the one week submit date and with approval of the instructor may only earn up to a C grade. Assignments turned in under these conditions may not be graded as quickly as assignments that meet the scheduled deadlines.

Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:

Plagiarism and academic dishonesty will be dealt with under University policy. For this course, on a one-time basis the assignment must be corrected and resubmitted and the highest grade one can receive is a C on the resubmitted assignment. A second case of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade. At the discretion of the instructor, small citation formatting errors or punctuation mistakes (such as neglecting a closing quotation mark for one quote) may be corrected for full course credit on a one-time basis. Plagiarism entails using another person's work word-for-word or through paraphrasing without proper quotations, credit, and documentation (this includes the internet and images). Academic dishonesty includes copying another student's work and submitting a previous project or paper completed for another class as credit for a second class. See the Student Conduct Code for more information.

Online Classroom Netiquette

- ❖ Students are to participate in the online environment prepared and with familiarity with the reading materials for that week with an open mind to various viewpoints and a willingness to participate in online discussions through close listening, contributing, not dominating the discussion, and writing thoughtfully, and contributing to make a positive learning community.
- ❖ Let's express ourselves in a thoughtful, respectful, and reasoned manner using non-sexist and non-racist language. Racial slurs and hate-filled language concerning gender, transgender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, political affiliation, and religion are not permitted in the online classroom.
- ❖ Behaving in an online environment using insults or hostility is not permitted. If the behaviors continue the student will be suspended from attending class. See the University Community Conduct Code in the Student Handbook.
- ❖ Experiences shared in the online class should not be shared with anyone outside of the class.

Special Needs and Concerns:

Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must register with the Center for Accessibility Resources (651) 793-1549, TTY (651) 772-7723 or accessiblity.resources@metrostate.edu as early as possible. If you have a documented learning disability, or if you suspect you have a learning disability which may impact your opportunity to succeed in this course, call the Center for Accessibility Resources right away so that you can explore possible ways to reasonably accommodate your learning style.

A Typical Week:

 In a typical week, you will do five things:

1. Read the assigned readings and lecture notes.
2. Participate in any online Discussions by continually visiting, doing the project and writing informed postings, and reading postings throughout the week.
3. Work on additional assignments.
4. Check the Course Home for announcements and read any additional lecture notes in the Content.
5. Keep track of deadlines and complete assignments by the due date.

Preparation:

As a university course, you are expected to spend 3 to 4 hours per credit per week in your studies, preparation activities, and assessments. In a 4 credit course, you therefore are expected to spend 12 to 16 hours per week completing readings, assignments, discussions, and research for this course.

You are expected to read all relevant textbook and other articles prior to starting any assignments, such as the discussions. You will likely lose points in these assessments if you are ill-prepared and do not show substantive understanding by interweaving the readings during the discussions and assignments.

It is to your benefit to create a series of notes and chapter outlines from your readings. The process of writing or transcribing thoughts can dramatically increase your ability to remember and understand concepts and skills you are learning.

Collaborative Work:

The nature of this class requires that some collaboration and communication with your peers takes place for discussions and group-oriented activities.

Homework, papers, and individual projects must be done individually. While students can consult with each other about strategies and resources, you must complete all work on the assignment yourself.

Written Assignments:

All formal written assignments must be typed and submitted as either Microsoft Word file format (.doc) or in rich-text-format (.rtf), unless otherwise stated. All other formats will be returned un-graded with a grade of zero (0).

Please also see the **Document File Names** section.

Document File Names:

If your filename contains spaces or other special characters, the instructor may not be able to download or access your file from D2L.

Name your file using only letters, numbers, and underscore characters. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR FILENAME CONTAINS YOUR LAST NAME. For readability, it is preferred that you use MixedCapitals for your filenames. Preferred document file name format: AssignmentName_Lastname.doc

Problem	Don't	Do
Space characters are not allowed in filenames	My research paper.doc	WomenEntrepreneursInSoftware.doc
Special characters are not allowed in filenames (except for _ underscore)	Jack & Jill case study paper.doc My Work is 100%.doc	JackAndJill_CaseStudy.doc MyWorkIs100Pct.doc
Only .DOC, .RTF, .XLS, .PPT, .ZIP, .PDF, .JPG, .GIF, .WAV, .MPG files are allowed as uploads	Upload files that are not in these file formats	Convert file to a safe format

Back-up Copies:/Save of Returned Assignments:

You are responsible for keeping copies of all assignments turned in to the course as well as returned assignments. When materials have been submitted through the D2L Dropbox area, these materials can be downloaded for storage on your computer.

Incompletes:

You must complete all assignments and activities in the class in order to earn a passing grade for the course. Points are earned in the course by successfully completing activities, assignments, and assessments.

If you choose to seek an Incomplete grade in this course, you must provide a written request through campus email to the Instructor at least 7 days prior to the end date of the term. The instructor has the right to refuse granting a grade of Incompletes for students who have not sustained a passing grade in the course up and to the date of the student's written request for an Incomplete.

D2L Brightspace Down Times:

It is very important that each time you log into D2L that you read the My Home area to check if there are any scheduled downtimes. You are responsible for planning around these downtimes for your assignments and to turn them in prior to deadline (therefore it is best to get all assignments done before deadline and submitted in case the system needs to be taken offline for maintenance).

If there is an ongoing disruption that prevents you from completing a D2L assignment, email the D2L help desk screenshots of the error messages you are receiving and include specific times you are trying to log into the system. These can be later verified to determine the nature of the problem.

Most problems within D2L are based on high-usage (too many people online at the same time). Try your activity 30-minutes later, and you are likely to be successful.

Technology Requirements:

Computer Hardware:

For this course, your computer should meet the optimum requirements as specified on the Brightspace Platform Requirements on your D2L homepage.

Internet Connection:

You are expected to have Internet access in order to log into the **D2L** system at least three days per week in order to check for updates and complete required work. Your computer must also fully pass the System Check found on the Desire2Learn login page.

Computer Software:

You are expected to be extremely well-versed in using Microsoft's Internet Explorer and in using the Internet to access online resources and sites. You are expected to be extremely familiar and competent at using Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint.

Free Campus Resources:

1. Computer Centers in Minneapolis (612.659.7245), St. Paul (651.793.1245) and Midway (651.999.5845). Metro State students have access to numerous software packages, an E-mail account, surfing the Web and installing Remote Access on their home computers.
2. If you are having trouble getting into your D2L course site, please contact online.learning@metrostate.eduThis support is limited to D2L only; for assistance with non-D2L technology issues, please contact the IT HELP DESK.
3. Information Technology Help Desk support is available by sending an email to IT.DESK@Metrostate.edu. During normal business hours, the IT DESK phone number is 651-793-1240. IT Help Desk provides support for campus web portal, campus email, campus website pages, and campus NetDirect accounts (usernames and passwords).
4. Writing Center – To make an appointment or to inquire about the center's services, call 651.793.1460 or email centerfolk@metrostate.edu. The Writing Center is very helpful and student centered.
5. Library Services – are available at Minneapolis, Midway or St. Paul Academic Computer Centers. Call the Library Services Desk at 651.793.1616 for specific information on hours and free workshops being offered throughout the term.