

Urban and Environmental Policy 101
Society and Environment; Tu and Th 10:05-11:30a
Martha Matsuoka (Section 1), Johnson 203
Mijin Cha (Section 2), Johnson 105

Office Hours

Martha Matsuoka; UEP Dept #201 ; T/TH 3-4:30 or by appointment

Mijin Cha; UEP Dept #104; T/TH 3-4:30 or by appointment

What is this course about

This course is an introduction into issues at the intersection of “urban” and “environment”. It is for those interested in learning more about these concepts and the path forward towards creating more just and equitable environments and cities. This course introduces students to the political, economic, and social aspects of the environment with a focus on the role of government, policy, and social change. The course is designed for students considering a UEP major and those who want to take the class because you are interested. The course is structured for us, as a group, to learn about these issues and discuss them in small groups, in our sections, and in a larger group when we combine sections. It is an opportunity for you to meet others interested in asking and answering complex questions about our cities, the natural world, and our global context.

What are the goals of this course?

The goals of this course are to examine the idea of “environment” and how it relates to the urban context. This course explores the intersection of race, poverty, and the environment and introduces how issues of race, class, and workers’ rights interact with the environment. Finally, this course will help students begin to critically examine environmental issues and movements.

Course Requirements

Participation (20%) : You are expected to do all of the course readings and keep up to date. This is a reading intensive seminar. Attendance and preparation is required. Participation in class (coming to class and being a part of it) counts for 10% of your grade. You may only miss class *once* without prior approval. And you may miss *once* with approval. Any additional absences will result in an automatic decrease by one grade (a B will become a B-, for example). Your participation grade also includes attending 2 events related to the class- a tour of the Los Angeles Ports and two walking tours of Highland Park. You are expected to write up 2-3 pages on the event, your participation, and a brief analysis. Your participation in class will also be

evaluated based on your ability to contribute to the class discussions as a whole. Be mindful of your own contribution but also the overall classroom dynamic. Listen attentively to others, recognize when to “step up” and “step back” to contribute to a productive discussion that enables meaningful participation by others in the class.

Reflection Papers (30%): There are three reflection paper assignments: 1) Highland Park Walk #1; 2) Urban Environmental Systems; and 3) Highland Park Walk #2. We will pass out paper prompts in class.

Midterm Exam (20%): You will have a mid-term take home paper exam that you will have 24 hours to complete. The midterm will be discussed in more detail in class.

Final (30%): Final papers are due Friday, December 9th by 5pm. You must submit two hard copies to the UEP department, as well as an electronic version to whomever is leading your section. Papers should be between 8-10 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font.

COURSE POLICIES

Plagiarism Policy

Plagiarism consists of any form of passing off, or attempting to pass off, the knowledge or work of others as your own. It is a form of cheating. Examples of plagiarism include: unattributed quotations from a book, magazine or article; copying from the notes or essays of others; the submission of work actually written or dictated by others; and unattributed use of other people’s ideas. Remember, plagiarism includes information from books, newspapers, journals and the Internet. Plagiarism is grounds for failing the course and possible expulsion from the college. Students should consult Occidental’s student handbook for information on academic misconduct policy at the college: <http://www.oxy.edu/student-handbook/academic-ethics/academic-misconduct>.

Classroom Community

This course is intended to provoke discussion and new understandings of the urban environment we live in. Toward this end, the course will grapple with discussions about inequity, power, race, class, and gender. We expect our classroom to be a productive space for open, honest, and thoughtful discussion that recognizes and respects differences and acknowledges the broad range of knowledge we bring to the classroom and discussion. Please remember that our focus in this course is the issues, texts, course materials and presentations themselves, and not the personalities, identities, or opinions of other participants in the discussion.

Laptops and Cellphones

Electronic devices in the classroom limit full participation in class. In order for you to pay attention and engage in learning and minimize distractions to others, laptops are not allowed unless they are necessary for note-taking, which must receive prior approval from your professor. Cell phones and all other electronic devices are to be turned off or put on silent. Students who are not paying attention in class will be marked as absent.

Course Readings will be posted on Moodle. Please complete readings for the day they are assigned. Readings will largely follow the syllabus but are subject to some changes. Please pay attention to the Moodle site for any changes to the schedule and/or the readings

Support Services

The college provides a set of resources to students to support them in learning. The [Writing Center](#) provides writing assistance to students to develop ideas, draft, and revise papers.

Students with documented disabilities who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester or as soon as possible thereafter. Any student who experiences significant physical or mental impairments may contact Disability Services at (323) 259-2969 to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>

The Emmons Wellness Center also provides important support services and can help you address issues of stress, medical and mental health, and overall well-being. For more information, see their website at <http://www.oxy.edu/emmons-wellness-center>

Class Readings and Assignments

Thursday, September 1—Introduction to the Course

Tuesday, September 6- Environment and You

William Cronan, ; “The Trouble with Wilderness; or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature”
(pages 1-15 only)

Stacy J. Silveira, The American Environmental Movement: Surviving through Diversity,
[Boston College Environmental Affairs Law Review](#), Vol. 28, Issue 2, 2004:
<http://lawdigitalcommons.bc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1194&context=ealr>

Thursday, September 8: Environmental Understandings

Lynn White, Jr. "[The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis](#)" in Science. Vol. 155, No. 3767 (March 1967), pgs. 48-54

Winona LaDuke. "Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Environmental Futures". The Winona LaDuke Reader. Voyageur Press. 2002. Pgs. 78-88.

Tuesday, September 13: Introduction to the Urban Environment

"The City and the Natural Environment." The Global Development Research Center. <http://www.gdrc.org/uem/doc-tarr.html>

Davis, Mike; "Slum Ecology"; Orion Magazine; <https://orionmagazine.org/article/slum-ecology/>

Harvey, David; "[The Right to the City](#)" New Left Review; September/October 2008

Thursday, September 15: The Oxy Environment

Joint class on sustainability at Oxy:

- Lila Singer-Berk, [Occidental Campus Greening: Research and Recommendations](#). Summer Undergraduate Research Project. Summer 2013.
- Zack Coleman. "The True Cost of Gentrification" Fusion. June 30, 2016 http://fusion.net/story/319892/true-cost-of-environmental-gentrification-study/?utm_source=emailshare&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=socialshare&utm_content=theme_bottom_mobile
- Bianca Barragan. [Here's How Highland Park Turned a Gas Station Into a Park](#). LA Curbed. February 23, 2015

Assignment Reflection Paper #1: Due Monday, September 19 by Noon.

Paper prompt and instructions will be handed out in class.

Tuesday, September 20: Inequality and the Environment

"Inequality and the Environment" The Real News Network. October 13, 2014; Read the article and watch the news clip. http://therealnews.com/t2/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=31&Itemid=74&jumival=9760.

Also read (based on some of the same data as well as other studies): Susan Holmberg. "Inequality isn't just bad for the economy—It's toxic for the environment" Grist. July 5, 2015; <http://grist.org/politics/inequality-isnt-just-bad-for-the-economy-its-toxic-for-the-environment/>

Michele Morrone and Geoffrey Buckley. 2011. Chapter 1 in Mountains of Injustice. Columbus, OH: Ohio University Press. pgs. 3-31

LA Regional Environmental Justice Collaborative. Special Pullout Section (4 pages) from Building a Regional Voice for Environmental Justice. 2004

Thursday, September 22: Race and the Environment

Giovanna Di Chiro. "Nature as Community: The Convergence of Environment and Social Justice," in Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature. William Cronon, editor. pp. 298-306

Jedidiah Purdy. "Environmentalism's Racist History" The New Yorker. August 13, 2015 <http://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/environmentalisms-racist-history>

Kristen Lombardi. "Environmental Racism Persists and the EPA is One Reason Why" Center for Public Integrity September 4, 2015 <https://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/08/03/17668/environmental-racism-persists-and-epa-one-reason-why>

J. Mijin Cha. "Flint Water Crisis is a Classic Case of Environmental Racism" The Hill January 25, 2016.; <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/energy-environment/266850-flint-water-crisis-is-classic-case-of-environmental>

Tuesday, September 27nd: Gender and the Environment

Giovanna Di Chiro. "Sustaining Everyday Life: Bringing Together Environmental, Climate and Reproductive Justice." Different Takes. No. 58 Spring 2009

Julie Sze. "Gender, Asthma Politics, and Environmental Justice" in New Perspectives on Environmental Justice: Gender, Sexuality, and Activism. Rachel Stein, ed. pp. 177-190. 2004

Celene Krauss. "Challenging Power: Toxic Waste Protests and the Politicization of White, Working Class Women." In Community Activism and Feminist Politics: Organizing Across Race, Class and Gender. Nancy Naples (ed). New York: Routledge, 1998).

“Women Spend 374 Hours Each Year Collecting Firewood in India, Study Finds” Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves. May 5, 2015: <http://cleancookstoves.org/about/news/05-05-2015-women-spend-374-hours-each-year-collecting-firewood-in-india-study-finds.html>

Thursday, September 29: Workers and the Environment

Watch this 8 minute video: Inside (1995 El Monte Thai Garment Slavery Case):
<https://youtube/QLVeiKTLgqg>

The 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. ILR Cornell University.
<http://trianglefire.ilr.cornell.edu/story/introduction.html> (read through the whole section all the way through to Investigation and trial)

Jason Burke and Saad Hammoudi. “Bangladesh textile factory fire leaves more than 100 dead” The Guardian. November 25, 2012:
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/nov/25/bangladesh-textile-factory-fire>

Syed Zain Al-Mahmood. “Bangladesh garment industry scrambles to save reputation after fires” The Guardian. January 10, 2013: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/jan/10/bangladesh-garment-industry-reputation-fires>

Richard Wolff. “Yes, there is an alternative to capitalism: Mondragon shows the way” The Guardian. June 24, 2012:
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2012/jun/24/alternative-capitalism-mondragon>

Tuesday, October 4: Contemporary Challenges in the Urban Environment

Guest Speaker: Brentin Mock, Journalist, CityLab; formerly at Grist

Brentin Mock, “Are there two different versions of environmentalism, one “white,” one “black”?” Grist.Org, Jul 31, 2014: <http://grist.org/climate-energy/are-there-two-different-versions-of-environmentalism-one-white-one-black/>

Brentin Mock, “How Environmental Injustice Links to Police Violence” CityLab, Jul 21, 2016: <http://www.citylab.com/politics/2016/07/how-environmental-injustice-connects-to-police-violence/492053/>

Terrence McCoy, Freddie Gray’s Life a Study in the Sad Effects of Lead Paint on Poor Blacks, Washington Post, Apr 29, 2015:
[https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/freddie-grays-life-a-study-in-the-sad-effects-of-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/freddie-grays-life-a-study-in-the-sad-effects-of-lead-paint-on-poor-blacks/)

lead-paint-on-poor-blacks/2015/04/29/0be898e6-eea8-11e4-8abc-d6aa3bad79dd_story.html

Thursday, October 6: Midterm Check in

Tuesday, October 11: Fall Break - No Class

Thursday, October 13: Urban Systems and the Environment

Readings TBD.

Tuesday, October 18: Consumption: Food Systems

Joint class- Guest Speaker

Joann Lo, "Walmart at the Crossroads: Live Better, Do Better for All of Us/The Environmental and Labor Impact of Its Food Supply Chain"; Capital & Main; June 4, 2015; <http://capitalandmain.com/latest-news/issues/labor-and-economy/walmart-at-the-crossroads-live-better-do-better-for-all-of-us-0604/>

City of Los Angeles, Good food purchasing pledge, read pgs 1-6.
http://lacity.cityofla.acsitefactory.com/sites/g/files/wph281/f/mayorvillaraigosa331283141_10242012.pdf

Thursday, October 20: Consumption of Energy

Joint class

William R. Childs, "Energy Policy and the Long Transition in America" (read both pages), Origins, Current Events in Historical Perspectives, vol.5, no.2, Nov, 2011, <http://origins.osu.edu/article/energy-policy-and-long-transition-america/page/0/0>,

The Story of Energy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Z6P-PoZVKQ>

Crude LA: California's Urban Oil Fields:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnbG4cOyAzY>

J. Mijin Cha, "Unnatural Gas: How Government Made Fracking Profitable (and Left Renewables Behind)", Dissent, Jun 27, 2013
http://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/unnatural-gas-how-government-made-fracking-profitable-and-left-renewables-behind

Tuesday, October 25: Industrial Pollution and Occupational Health

NYT Series: Sarah Maslin Nir, "The Price of Nice Nails," New York Times, May 7, 2015:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/10/nyregion/at-nail-salons-in-nyc-manicurists-are-underpaid-and-unprotected.html>

Sarah Maslin Nir, "Perfect Nails, Poisoned Workers," New York Times, May 8, 2015:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/11/nyregion/nail-salon-workers-in-nyc-face-hazardous-chemicals.html>

Sarah Maslin Nir, "Cuomo Orders Emergency Measures to Protect Workers at Nail Salons," New York Times, May 11, 2015:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/11/nyregion/cuomo-orders-emergency-measures-to-protect-workers-at-nail-salons.html>

T., Quach, Robert Gunier, Alisha Tran, Julie Von Behren, Phuong-An Doan-Billings, Kim-Dung Nguyen, Linda Okahara et al. "Characterizing workplace exposures in Vietnamese women working in California nail salons." Journal Information 101, no. S1 (2011).

Thursday, October 27: Global Trade and the Environment

Joint class: Guest Speaker

Andrea Hricko, "Global Trade Comes Home: Community Impacts of Goods Movement" (Environmental Health Perspectives, 116 (2), Feb, 2008, 80-81).

Ronald White. "Local Ports face Panama Challenge." Los Angeles Times, December 29, 2011

Lydia DePillis, "Ports are the New Power Plants," Washington Post, November 24, 2015
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/11/24/ports-are-the-new-power-plants-at-least-in-terms-of-pollution/>

Karen Robes Meeks. "[Los Angeles, Long Beach port truck drivers move nation's goods](#)" Long Beach Press Telegram May 16, 2015.

Richard Wilson. American Federation of Teachers. How Wal-Mart Is (Mis)Shaping the Global Economy. <http://www.aft.org/periodical/american-educator/spring-2007/how-wal-mart-misshaping-global-economy>

Weekend Exercise: From Thursday Oct 27 to Tuesday Nov 1 keep track of your waste. More details will be presented in class.

Saturday, October 29th. Possible Tour of the Ports of LA/Long Beach.

Tuesday, November 1: Waste and the Environment

Sintana E. Vergara¹ and George Tchobanoglous, "Municipal Solid Waste and the Environment: A Global Perspective," Annual Review of Environment and Resources, Nov. 2012, <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/full/10.1146/annurev-environ-050511-122532>

Liyna Anwar, "Waste in LA: Closing America's Largest Landfill, Without Taking Out The Trash," NPR, Feb 22, 2014 <http://www.npr.org/2014/02/22/280750148/closing-america-s-largest-landfill-without-taking-out-the-trash>

LAANE, "Don't Waste LA: Cleaning Up Waste and Recycling Management and Securing the Benefits," July 2015: <http://www.laane.org/zero-waste-blueprint/> and watch this video: <http://www.dontwastela.com/2014/04/15/pbs-social-insider-covers-zero-waste-la-policy/>

Assignment #2: Reflection Paper on Urban Systems and the Environment Due Nov. 3 at the beginning of class.

Thursday, November 3: Politics and Power

Background: Anthony Fowler, "Elections Have Big Consequences that Last for Decades," LSE Blogs, 2015: <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/63551/1/blogs.lse.ac.uk-Elections%20have%20big%20consequences%20that%20last%20for%20decades.pdf>

Climate/Environmental Plans for each candidate. Read each candidate's platform and come prepared to debate the pros and cons of each.

Hillary Rodham Clinton:

<https://www.hillaryclinton.com/briefing/factsheets/2016/04/13/hillary-clintons-plan-to-fight-for-environmental-and-climate-justice/>

Donald Trump: <https://www.donaldjtrump.com/press-releases/an-america-first-energy-plan>

Jill Stein: <http://www.jill2016.com/platform>

Gary Johnson: http://www.ontheissues.org/Gary_Johnson.htm#Environment

Tuesday, November 8: Get Out The Vote (GOTV): Democracy in Action

No class. Work with an organization doing GOTV. We will provide a prompt for the assignment.

Thursday, November 10: Highland Park neighborhood observations

Readings TBD and detailed prompt for reflection paper to be given in class.

Assignment Reflection Paper #3: Due Monday, November 15 by Noon.

Tuesday, November 15.

Readings TBD.

Thursday, November 17: Overview on Climate

National Research Council of the National Academies; "Climate Change: Evidence, Impacts, and Choices; Read part 1 on 'Evidence'"; pp. 1-18; <https://nas-sites.org/americasclimatechoices/more-resources-on-climate-change/climate-change-lines-of-evidence-booklet/>;

EPA, "Understanding the Link Between Climate Change and Extreme Weather: <https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/science/extreme-weather.html> (read through all of the extreme weather issues)

Oliver Milman, "Climate Change and National Parks," The Guardian, Aug 22, 2016: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/aug/22/climate-change-national-parks-threat>

"Climate Injustice: Those Who Emit the Least Pay the Most," Conservation Magazine, Feb 11, 2016: <http://conservationmagazine.org/2016/02/those-who-emit-least-pay-most/>

Tuesday, November 29: Introduction to Climate Solutions

Jack Healy, "Occupying the Prairie: Tensions Rise as Tribes Move to Block a Pipeline," (make sure to watch the video, too), New York Times, Aug 23, 2016: http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/24/us/occupying-the-prairie-tensions-rise-as-tribes-move-to-block-a-pipeline.html?_r=0

350.org, "Why we took to the streets for People's Climate March," <http://350.org/why-we-took-to-the-streets-for-peoples-climate-march/>

David Biello, "10 Solutions for Climate Change," Scientific American, Nov 26, 2007:
<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/10-solutions-for-climate-change/>

Thursday, December 1—Class Exercise: Healthy and Just Cities Agenda

Tuesday, December 6 – Course wrap up

Climate Briefing Paper due December 9, 5pm.

Summary of Assignments and Due Dates

Assignment	Due Date
Reflection Paper #1: Highland Park Walk	9/19 by noon. Post to Moodle.
24 hour Midterm	Pass out in class on 10/6; due by 12:00 p.m. on Friday. Post to Moodle
Reflection Paper #2: Urban Systems and the Environment	Due in class Thursday, 11/3; turn in hard copy and post to Moodle
Reflection #3: Highland Park Walk #2	Due Monday, 11/14 by 12:00 p.m. Post to Moodle
Final Paper: Climate Briefing Paper	12/9 by 5:00. Turn in a hard copy to the UEP office; post to Moodle