

Urban and Environmental Policy 101
Society and Environment; Section 1 Tu and Th 10:05-11:30a, Johnson 315
Section 2 Tu and Th 1:30-2:55, Johnson 315
Prof. Mijin Cha

Office Hours

UEP Dept. #203; Tuesday 3-5pm 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 interact with 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 (25%) : 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 attending all joint sessions where class will meet during the lunch time period (11:40-1:15) instead of your regular class time.

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. Focus on quality over quantity when participating in class.

Reflection Papers (20%): There are two reflection paper assignments: 1) Highland Park Walk #1; 2) Highland Park Walk #2. Paper prompts will be passed out in class.

Midterm Exam (25%): You will have a mid-term exam on **Tuesday, Oct. 3**. More details will be discussed in class closer to the date.

Final (30%): Final papers are due Friday, December 8th 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. Paper prompts will be passed out two weeks before due date.

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. 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

Classes begin Tuesday, Aug. 29th in the afternoon so section 2 will be canceled to keep both sections on the same syllabus.

Thursday, August 31—Introduction to the Course

- Introductions

- Name, preferred gender pronoun, where you grew up, what do you think is the most challenging urban environmental issue we face and why.
- Goals for class; expectations; email protocol
- Review syllabus
- How to read the articles and take notes
 - *Best way to read the articles is to:*
 - *Read for content*
 - *What is the subject/topic being covered?*
 - *Read to critique:*
 - *What's the author's primary point?*
 - *Does he/she/they make the points? How so? How not?*
 - *Are you convinced?*
 - *What does the author miss?*

Tuesday, September 5- 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 6: 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 12: 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 14: The Oxy Environment

Reflection Paper #1: Highland Park Exercise. During class time, you will undertake the Highland Park exercise.

Background reading:

- In the Face of Gentrification: Case Studies of Local Efforts to Mitigate Displacement: <http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/50791/411294-In-the-Face-of-Gentrification.PDF>. Read the introduction and case study on the Figueroa Corridor, p. 43-42.
- Bianca Barragan. [Here's How Highland Park Turned a Gas Station Into a Park](#). LA Curbed. February 23, 2015

Reflection Paper #1: Due Monday, September 18 by Noon. Turn in hard copy to UEP.

Tuesday, September 19: Inequality and the Environment

): Susmita Dasgupta, Benoit Laplante, Hua Wang and David Wheeler Source. *Confronting the Environmental Kuznets Curve*. The Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 16, No. 1 (Winter, 2002), pp. 147-168

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

Thursday, September 21: JOINT CLASS FROM 11:40-1:10

JOINT CLASS- GUEST SPEAKER, BRUCE JENNINGS

Tuesday, September 26: 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](https://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/08/03/17668/environmental-racism-persists-and-epa-one-reason-why)" [Center for Public Integrity](https://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/08/03/17668/environmental-racism-persists-and-epa-one-reason-why) 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](http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/energy-environment/266850-flint-water-crisis-is-classic-case-of-environmental)" [The Hill](http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/energy-environment/266850-flint-water-crisis-is-classic-case-of-environmental) January 25, 2016.; <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/energy-environment/266850-flint-water-crisis-is-classic-case-of-environmental>

Thursday, September 28nd: 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](http://cleancookstoves.org/about/news/05-05-2015-women-spend-374-hours-each-year-collecting-firewood-in-india-study-finds.html). May 5, 2015: <http://cleancookstoves.org/about/news/05-05-2015-women-spend-374-hours-each-year-collecting-firewood-in-india-study-finds.html>

Tuesday, October 3: MIDTERM

Thursday, October 5: NO CLASS

Tuesday, October 10: Fall Break - No Class

Thursday, October 12: JOINT CLASS from 11:40-1:15

Dr. Robert Gottlieb Book Talk on ACTION RESEARCH AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT: MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN IN LOS ANGELES, HONG KONG, AND CHINA

Tuesday, October 17: Workers and the Environment

Watch this 8 minute video: Inside (1995 El Monte Thai Garment Slavery Case):

<https://youtu.be/QLVeikTLggg>

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>

John-Henry Harter Source. *Environmental Justice for Whom? Class, New Social Movements, and the Environment: A Case Study of Greenpeace Canada, 1971-2000*, Labour / Le Travail, Vol. 54 (Fall, 2004), pp. 83-119

Thursday, October 19: 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).

Tuesday, October 24: Consumption of Energy

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>,

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

Timothy E. Wirth, C. Boyden Gray and John D. Podesta. *The Future of Energy Policy*, Foreign Affairs, Vol. 82, No. 4 (Jul. - Aug., 2003), pp. 132-155

Thursday, October 26: Global Trade and the Environment

Joint class: Guest Speaker. CLASS WILL MEET FROM 11:40-1:15

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>

Tuesday, October 31: 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-americas-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-socal-insider-covers-zero-waste-la-policy/>

Thursday, November 2: Consumption: Food Systems

Joint class- Guest Speaker: CLASS WILL MEET FROM 11:40-1:15

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

Tuesday, November 7: Highland Park observation #2

Assignment Reflection Paper #2: Due Friday, November 10 by Noon. Post to Moodle

Thursday, November 9: Politics and Power

Anthony Downs. *An Economic Theory of Political Action in a Democracy*, Journal of Political Economy, Vol. 65, No. 2 (Apr., 1957), pp. 135-150.

Biplab Dasgupta. *The New Political Economy: A Critical Analysis*, Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 32, No. 4 (Jan. 25-31, 1997), pp. PE13-PE26.

Tuesday, November 14. Political Economy of the Environment

Thomas K. Rudel, J. Timmons Roberts, and JoAnn Carmi. *Political Economy of the Environment*: Annual Review of Sociology, Vol. 37 (2011), pp. 221-238.

Nazli Choucri. *Political Economy of the Global Environment*, International Political Science Review, Vol. 14, No. 1, (Jan., 1993), pp. 103-116.

Thursday, November 16: 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 21 and Thursday, November 23- NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Tuesday, November 28: 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 30—Class Exercise: Healthy and Just Cities Agenda

Exercise will be led by James Rojas, urban planner and founder of *PLACE IT!*
Sponsored by Remsen Bird Fund.

Tuesday, December 6 – Course wrap up

Final paper due December 8, 5pm.

Summary of Assignments and Due Dates

| Assignment | Due Date |
|--|---|
| Reflection Paper #1: Highland Park Walk | 9/18 by noon. Turn in hard copy to UEP |
| Midterm in class | 10/3 |
| Reflection Paper #2: Highland Park Walk #2 | 11/10 by noon; turn in hard copy to UEP |
| Final Paper | 12/8 by 5:00. Turn in a hard copy to the UEP office; post to Moodle |