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 justice and equitable environments and cities. It is for both those considering a UEP major and those of you 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.

Course Requirements
Participation (10%): You are expected to do all of the readings and keep up with course readings. 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).

Homework Assignments (4 HW assignments) (20%): There are four homework assignments. These are opportunities for you to apply your readings to an analysis related to your own experience or context. Each homework assignment is worth 5% of your grade.

Analytical Papers (4 Papers) (40%): The course is divided up into section and over every two sections, you will have a paper due. The paper is not a summary of the readings. Rather it is an analysis of the readings and asks you to go in greater depth in your writing than we might have been able to cover in class. Each paper will have a prompt that will be passed out in class. Each paper due date is listed in the syllabus.

Off Campus Event (2 events) (5%): You are expected attend 2 events related to the class. This could include a public hearing on a relevant issue, a talk off campus, a community organized event, etc.. We will hand out a list of options and you may also find others and ask us for relevance and approval prior to the event. You are expected to write up a page on the event, your participation, and an brief analysis.
Final: Your final for this course consists of both an individual paper and a group project. You will be graded on these as follows.

Final Paper (10%): Details for the final papers will be handed out in class

Final Group Project (15%): Details for the Final Group Projects will be handed out in class

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 peoples’ 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.

Laptops and Cellphones
Participation is an important part of our classroom. As such, there are to be no phones and no laptops in the classroom. You may take notes on a laptop with prior approval but your internet connection must be turned off. Cell phones and all other electronic devices are to be turned off or put on silent.

Course Readings will be posted on moodle. Readings will largely follow the syllabus but are subject to some changes. Please pay attention to the moodle site.

I: Core Concepts
Thursday, August 27—Introduction to the Course

Week 2: The Arc of Environmentalism
Tuesday, September 1 - Ideas of Nature
The idea of nature contains, though often unnoticed, an extraordinary amount of human history
Raymond Williams

Writing Assignment: What do you consider the most pressing environmental issues in your your hometown? Why? 1 page. Definition of Nature. What does nature mean to you and how do you define it. Due in hard copy at the START of class.

Cronan, William; “The Trouble with Wilderness; or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature”

Price, Jenny; “Thirteen Ways of Seeing Nature in L.A., We Need to Rewrite the Stories and Los Angeles is the Best Way to Do it”; http://www.believermag.com/issues/200604/?read=article_price
Walljasper, Jay; "The Victory of the Commons" (yes! magazine, October 27, 2009)

Thursday, September 3: Historical Context Continued

Cronan, William; “The View from Walden” and “That Wilderness Should Turn a Mart” in Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England; 1983

Gottlieb, Robert; “Nature in the City”; in Reinventing Los Angeles; MIT Press; 2007

Week 3: Inextricable Ties: Urban and Environmental Histories

Tuesday, September 8: Inequality and the Environment

Agyeman, Julian; Bullard, Robert; and Evans, Bob; “Joined Up Thinking: Bringing Together Sustainability, Environmental Justice, and Equity”; in Just Sustainabilies: Development in an Unequal World

Meadows, Donella; How We Talk Can Determine How We Live : Some words illuminate short-term gain, distracting attention from long-term consequence”; January 14, 1994;  
http://articles.latimes.com/1994-01-14/local/me-11685_1_long-term

“Inequality and the Environment”; October 13, 2014; Read the article and watch the news clip.  

Also read (based on the some of the same data as well as other studies); “Inequality isn’t just bad for the economy—its toxic for the environment”; July 5, 2015;  

Davis, Mike; “Slum Ecology”; Orion Magazine; https://orionmagazine.org/article/slum-ecology/

We will discuss group projects today as well as hand out the names of people in your group and the schedule for conducting your final group project.

Thursday, September 10: The Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement


Scroll through and read the webpage from the report Green 2.0.  
http://diversegreen.org/report/
Lee, Trymaine; “Cancer Alley: Big Industry, Big Problems: Clusters of Poverty and Sickness Shadow America’s Industrial South”; http://www.msnbc.com/interactives/geography-of-poverty/se.html

Monday, September 14th: Short Paper #1, Part I- Due by 11am on Moodle or in hard copy to the UEP office.

II: Globalization—the global and the local
or what we buy, how is it made, who makes it, where does it come from, how did it get here, and where does it go when we’re done with it?

Week 4 : Consumption, Production /“Cradle to Cradle”

Tuesday, September 15: What is Globalization?

Homework Exercise #1: Calculate your Ecological Footprint; Either print your ecological footprint calculation or write a half-page on the result of your footprint exercise. Bring this in hard copy to class. http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/personal_footprint.

Enloe, Cynthia; “Gender Makes the World Go Round”; in Bananas, Beaches, and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics; University of California Press; 1989


Thursday, September 17: The Global Comes Home and Gets Personal: Goods Movement and Local Impacts

Guest Speakers: Jessica Tovar and Angelo Logan from the Moving Forward Network

MFN campaign video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ClCrBlaYdI

Matsuoka, M. Democratizing Planning: How Communities are Raising their Voices to Transform the I-710 Corridor Project. http://cache.oxy.edu/sites/default/files/assets/I-710-Case-Study-final_web.pdf


Hricko, A. Progress and Pollution: Port Cities Prepare for the Panama Canal Expansion, Environmental Health Perspectives, December 2012

Global Trade, Local Impacts: Lessons from California on Health Impacts and Environmental Justice Concerns for Residents Living near Freight Rail Yards

Week 5: Global Supply Chains and Labor Movements
Tuesday, September 22nd: Stuff We Buy: Labor, Environment, and Human Rights in the Global Supply Chain

Homework Exercise #2: look at the labels on 4 items of your clothing. Note where these pieces were made and bring your list to class. Look up the clothing brand (if it has one) and the location and do a little research on the garment industry in those locations. Write up 1-2 pages including the list of locations and your research findings and bring to class.


Dreier, Peter; “Alta Gracia: Showing the World What is Possible”; http://fairworldproject.org/voices-of-fair-trade/alta-gracia-showing-the-world-what-is-possible/

Thursday, September 24: The Global Food System and Movements for Justice


Levkoe, Charles; “Learning Democracy through food justice movements”; Agriculture and Human Values; 2006; http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs10460-005-5871-5#page-1

Short Paper#2 Consumption and Globalization: Papers for Part II Due at the UEP Department by 11am on Monday, September 28th.
III: Urban and Suburban Histories and the “Right to the City”

Week 6: Cities

Tuesday, September 29: History of the American Post WWII City

Dreier, Peter; “Redlining Cities: How Banks Color Community Development”; Challenge; v.34, n6; (November/December 1991); pp. 15-23


Jackson, “Once Again, the City Beckons”; New York Times; March 30, 2001

Thursday, October 1: Global Urbanization; What is the “right to the city”?

Harvey, David; “The Right to the City” in the New Left Review; September/October 2008

Dreier, Peter; “Building a Movement for Fair Lending, Foreclosure Relief, and Financial Reform”; in From Foreclosure to Fair Lending: Advocacy, Organizing, Occupy, and the Pursuit of Equitable Credit; ed. Chester Hartman and Gregory D. Squires

Thursday, October 6: Affordability and Land Rights in the City


Solnit, Rebecca; “Diary: Get off the Bus”; London Review of Books; http://www.lrb.co.uk/v36/n04/rebecca-solnit/diary. You can also read it on Solnit’s blog (which has lots of other great articles) here. http://rebeccasolnit.net/essay/pale-bus-pale-rider/


Jake Blumgart, "Affordable Housing's Forever Solution" (Next City) https://nextcity.org/features/view/affordable-housings-forever-solution

IV: Silent Spring, 3- Environmental Health Movement

Tuesday, October 8: Histories of activism behind our nation’s environmental laws

Gibbs, Lois; “Citizen Activism for Environmental Health: The Growth of a Powerful New Grassroots Health Movement”; The Annals of the Academy of Political and Social Science; v. 584, n. 1; 97-109; 2002; http://ann.sagepub.com/content/584/1/97.short
Tuesday, October 13—FALL BREAK– No Class

Thursday, October 15: Reimagining the City  *(This section is part of the previous “Right to the City” section. Due to scheduling constraints, we began the next section on the environmental health movement before break and will continue on with that section after this session with our guest—which is related to concepts across the course).*

Pulido, Laura et al; “Introduction” and “Greater Eastside and San Gabriel Valley”; *A People’s Guide to Los Angeles*; UC Press; 2012


Fainstein, “Planning and the Just City” (in Marcuse, ed., Searching for the Just City: Debates in Urban Theory and Practice, 2009)

*Guest Instructor James Rojas will be joining us in the UEP Garden. His visit is supported by the Remsen Bird Fund.*

Tuesday, October 20: Issues and Movements in Environmental Health


Check out the Campaign for Safe Cosmetics; [http://www.safecosmetics.org/](http://www.safecosmetics.org/)

*Homework Exercise #3*: Look through your personal care products. Pick 3-4 products. Look at the list of ingredients on the back of the products. Note them. Then go to safecosmetics.org or goodguide.com and enter your products into the database. What do they contain? Where do they fall in the rating system? Write up 1-2 pages on what you find and your thoughts and bring this to class.

Thursday, October 22: Pollution in the Environment and in Bodies

*Guest Speaker: Teni Adewumi, Industrial Hygiene Expert from Black Women for Wellness*

Steingraber, Sandra; “our bodies, inscribed” in *Living Downstream*; pp. 239-259

Cone, Marla; “Dozens of Words for Snow, None for Pollution: Perched atop the Arctic food chain, the people of the Far North face an impossible choice: abandon their traditional foods, or ingest the rest of the world’s poisons with every bite”; *MotherJones*; February 2005 [http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2005/01/dozens-words-snow-none-pollution](http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2005/01/dozens-words-snow-none-pollution)

V: Energy and Climate
Monday, October 26, Short Paper #3: Sections III and IV due in the UEP department by 11am.

Tuesday, October 27: Types of Energy—an Overview

Lippelt, Jana and Sindram, Maximilian; CESifo Forum; 2011; Global Energy Consumption; http://crawl.prod.proquest.com.s3.amazonaws.com/fpcache/af4ffb1840c597543d235af14d14b32d.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAJF7V7KNV2KKY2NUQ&Expires=1440609520&Signature=xf CG7izApklETX6lxeXe4D1sNqo%3D

Overview of Greenhouse Gases; Read the Overview- http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/gases.html; Click and read the tab on Carbon Dioxide; http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/ghgemissions/gases/co2.html


An Overview of Nuclear Power Plants; http://connection.ebscohost.com/science/nuclear-power/overview-nuclear-power-plants


**Homework #4:** Do you know where your hometown power comes from? Choosing your hometown or the City of Los Angeles, do a little research on the mix of energy sources that your residence uses. You could also do Oxy if you’d like. You can typically find this information by looking at your local utility company. Write up 1-2 pages on what you find and bring it to class.

Thursday, October 29: Oil Drilling in Los Angeles and the National Fracking Boom

Liberty Hill Foundation; Drilling Down Report

*Oil Drilling in Los Angeles; Guest Speaker, Sandra and Monic—Esperanza Community Housing and Nikki Wong, Redeemer Community Partnership*

Tuesday, November 3: Climate Science 101


National Research Council of the National Academies; *Climate Change: Evidence, Impacts, and Choices*; Read part 1 on “Evidence”; pp. 1-18; https://nas-
Thursday, November 5: Climate Change and Health

The White House Report; *The Health Impact of Climate Change on Americans*;  
[https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/the_health_impacts_of_climate_change_on_americans_final.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/the_health_impacts_of_climate_change_on_americans_final.pdf)

Tavernise, Sabrina; “Unraveling the Relationship Between Climate Change and Health”; *New York Times*; July 13, 2015;  

Tuesday, November 10: Climate Justice Movement

Read about AB 696: Bringing Renewable Energy to Environmental Justice Communities;  

Climate Justice Alliance; EPAs New Clean Power Plan - A Historic Step Forward, But Proper State Implementation Key;

Klein, Naomi: “The Right to Regenerate: Moving from Extraction to Renewal”; in *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. Climate*; Simon&Schuster; 2014

**Paragraph on Final Paper Topics Due in Class in Hard Copy. This should be 2 paragraphs. Please refer to handout on final papers for more detail.**

**VI Water**

Thursday, November 12: Global Water Use and Needs

NPR; “The Worldwide ‘Thirst’ for Clean Drinking Water; read article and listedn to the story  

Patrick, Stewart M.; “The Coming Global Water Crisis”; *The Atlantic*; May 9, 2012;  
[http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/05/the-coming-global-water-crisis/256896/](http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/05/the-coming-global-water-crisis/256896/)

**Monday, November 16; Short Paper #4, Parts IV and V Due by 11am to the UEP office**

Tuesday, November 17: Water Use and Drought in California

Thursday, November 19: Global and Local Water Movements


*Guest Speaker Heng Lam Foong; Movements for Public Access to Drinking Water; Urban and Environmental Policy Institute*

Tuesday, November 24: Systems Thinking. Making Connections across the Syllabus

Lappe, Francis Moore; “Thinking Like an Ecosystem: How cutting one tree is never about just cutting one tree. Every act has multiple effects”; [http://www.ecoliteracy.org/article/thinking-ecosystem](http://www.ecoliteracy.org/article/thinking-ecosystem)


Thursday, November 26: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Tuesday, December 1: Group Project Presentations

**Short Paper #4 Due at the START of class; Climate and Water Sections**

Thursday, December 3—Course Wrap Up and Group Project Presentations

**Final Due ; Reflection Paper and Group Projects on Tuesday, December 8th by 5pm in the UEP office**