

## Environmental Health Justice (Fall 2015)

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys philosophical theories of justice, applying them to population bioethics with particular focus on environmental health justice. Case studies will include environmental racism and injustice in the United States as well as environmental and global justice dimensions of climate change, food systems, pollution, and infectious disease.

Objectives:

- Gain familiarity with philosophical theories of justice and the contemporary literature on justice in healthcare and environmental justice.
- Critical analysis of issues of distribution regarding environmental and medical benefits/burdens.
- Apply theories of justice to particular issues in environmental health justice.
- Improve academic writing abilities.

### COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings
W 9/2	Introduction: Population bioethics and environmental justice	Daniels, "Equity and Population Health: Toward a Broader Bioethics Agenda."  Shrader-Frechette, "Introduction" from <i>Environmental Justice: Creating Equality, Reclaiming Democracy</i> .  <i>Further reading:</i> Brulle and Pellow, "Environmental Justice: Human Health and Environmental Inequalities."  Sreenivasan, "Justice, Inequality, and Health." Available at: <a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/justice-inequality-health/">http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/justice-inequality-health/</a>
W 9/9	<b>Class Rescheduled</b>	
W 9/16	<b>3 hr Class</b>  <b>2 hrs:</b> What is justice? Selected readings in	Selections by Hume, Mill, Rawls, Nozick from Ryan, A. ed. 1993. <i>Justice</i> .  Cohen, "On the currency of egalitarian justice."

	<u>political philosophy</u>	Anderson, "What is the Point of Equality?"  <i>Further reading:</i>
	1 hr: Controversies in contemporary egalitarianism	Roemer, "Equality and Responsibility" and replies in <i>Boston Review</i> . Available here: <a href="http://new.bostonreview.net/BR20.2/roemer.html">http://new.bostonreview.net/BR20.2/roemer.html</a>  Holtug and Lippert-Rasmussen, "An Introduction to Contemporary Egalitarianism."
<b>W 9/23</b>	<b><u>3 hr class</u></b>	Cohen and Anderson Continued.  Selections from Bullard, R.D. ed. <i>Environmental Justice and Communities of Color</i> .  Contemporary map of America's segregation: <a href="http://www.wired.com/2013/08/how-segregated-is-your-city-this-eye-opening-map-shows-you/">http://www.wired.com/2013/08/how-segregated-is-your-city-this-eye-opening-map-shows-you/</a>
	1 hr: Controversies in contemporary egalitarianism cont'd	Collin and Collin. "Environmental reparations." In Bullard, R.D. ed. <i>The Quest for Environmental Justice: Human Rights and the Politics of Pollution</i> .  Ta-Nehisi Coates. 2014. "The Case for Reparations." <i>Atlantic</i> . Available here: <a href="http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/05/the-case-for-reparations/361631/">http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/05/the-case-for-reparations/361631/</a>
	2 hrs: Environmental racism in the US	
<b>W 9/30</b>	Feminism and (environmental) justice	Taylor, D. "Women of Color, Environmental Justice, and Ecofeminism." In Warren, ed. 1997. <i>Ecofeminism</i> .  Verchick, R. "In a Greener Voice: Feminist Theory and Environmental Justice." <i>Harvard Women's Law Journal</i> , 23, 1996.  Selections from Held, <i>The Ethics of Care as a Moral Theory</i> . Oxford
<b>W 10/7</b>	<b>Class Rescheduled</b>	
<b>W 10/14</b>	<b><u>3 hr class</u></b>	

	<p><b>2 hrs:</b> Health justice and egalitarianism</p> <p><b>1 hr:</b> Global justice and health</p>	<p>Daniels, “When are Health Inequalities Unjust?” in <i>Just Health</i>.</p> <p>Hausman, “Egalitarian Critiques of Health Inequalities.” In <i>Inequalities in Health</i>.</p> <p>Daniels, “International Health Inequalities and Global Justice,” in <i>Just Health</i>.</p> <p>Shrader-Frechette, “Developing Nations, Equal Protection, and the Limits of Moral Heroism,” in <i>Environmental Justice</i>.</p>
<b>W 10/21</b>	<p>(Potentially 3 hr class, depending on the previous week)</p> <p>Climate justice</p>	<p>Caney, S. 2010. “Cosmopolitan Justice, Responsibility, and Global Climate Change” from Gardiner, S.M. et al. eds. <i>Climate Ethics: Essential Readings</i>. Available on NYU’s Ebrary.</p> <p>Selections from Jamieson, D. <i>Reason in a Dark Time</i>.</p>
<b>W 10/28</b>	<p>Food systems and justice I: food security, access, and environmental justice</p>	<p>“Growing and Producing Food,” and “Accessing Food,” from Gottlieb and Joshi, <i>Food Justice</i>. Available on NYU’s Ebrary.</p> <p>Alkon and Agyeman. “Introduction: the Food Movement as Polyculture” from <i>Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability</i>.</p> <p>Selections from Nathaniel Johnson’s blog “Hungry Hungry Humans” from <i>Grist</i>. Available here: <a href="http://grist.org/series/hungry-hungry-humans/">http://grist.org/series/hungry-hungry-humans/</a></p>
<b>W 11/4</b>	<p>Food systems and justice II: overconsumption and obesity policy</p>	<p>Brownell and Friedan, “Ounces of Prevention,” <i>NEJM</i>.</p> <p>Selections from Conly, <i>Against Autonomy</i>. “Coercive Paternalism.”</p> <p>Dworkin, “Paternalism.” <i>Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy</i>. Available here: <a href="http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/paternalism/">http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/paternalism/</a></p> <p>Cohen and Farley, “Eating as Automatic</p>

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Behavior.”

Harris et al. “Protecting Children from Harmful Food Marketing.”

Kersh et al. “Childhood Obesity: A Framework for Policy Approaches and Ethical Considerations.”

Holm, “Obesity Interventions and Ethics.”

Noe, “The Value in Sweet Drinks.” NPR.

Available here:

<http://www.npr.org/sections/13.7/2012/09/24/161277720/the-value-in-sweet-drinks>

**W 11/11**

Pollution and justice, occupational exposures

Shrader-Frechette, “Lives at Risk” and “Orchestrating Ignorance, Ignoring Consent.” In *Taking Action, Saving Lives: Our Duties to Protect Environmental and Public Health*.

Shrader-Frechette, “Risky Occupational Environments, the Double Standard, and Just Compensation.” In *Environmental Justice*.

**W 11/18**

Indigenous people and environmental justice

Tsosie, R. 2007. “Indigenous People and Environmental Justice: the Impact of Climate Change.”

Grijalva, J. 2011. “Self-Determining Environmental Justice for Native America.”

Leonard, L. 1997. “Sovereignty, Self-Determination, and Environmental Justice in the Mescalero Apache’s Decision to Store Nuclear Waste.”

**W 11/25**

**Thanksgiving Break**

**W 12/2**

Infectious disease and justice

Battin et al. “Toward Control of Infectious Disease: Ethical Challenges for a Global Effort.”

Tong, “Shaping Ethical Guidelines for an Influenza Pandemic.” In Boylan, M. ed. *International Public Health Policy and Ethics*. Springer

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Online.

**W 12/9**

Mini-conference:  
Student presentations