# Environmental Justice

**COURSE NAME/NUMBER:** SOC 346  
**FACULTY/DEPARTMENT:** Social, Cultural and Media Studies  
**UFV CREDITS:** 4

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**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

Environmental justice is the intersection of environmental concerns with social equity: it is where social marginalization—by ethnicity, class, gender, or geography, amongst others—is disproportionately affected by negative environmental impacts. This intersection often finds institutional support. This course introduces students to the study of environmental justice through theory and case study, and it will cover both the structural and ideological bases of environmental injustice. Particular attention will be paid to the U.S. deep south, as the birthplace of the environmental justice movement. Environmental justice from Canadian, indigenous, and global perspectives will also be covered.

Note: Students with credit for SOC 399G cannot take this course for further credit.

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**PREREQUISITES:** 45 university-level credits including 6 credits of Sociology.

**SYNONYMOUS COURSE(S):**

(a) Replaces: SOC 399G  
(b) Cross-listed with:  
(c) Cannot take: for further credit.

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**TOTAL HOURS PER TERM:** 60

**STRUCTURE OF HOURS:**

- Lectures: 45 Hrs
- Seminar: 15 Hrs
- Laboratory:  
- Field experience:  
- Student directed learning:  
- Other (specify):  

**-training day-based instruction:**

- Length of course:  
- Hours per day:  

**OTHER:**

- Maximum enrolment: 25
- Expected frequency of course offerings: Every 3rd year  
  (every semester, annually, every other year, etc.)

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**WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (lower-level courses only)**

- Yes  
- No

**WILL TRANSFER CREDIT BE REQUESTED? (upper-level requested by department)**

- Yes  
- No

**TRANSFER CREDIT EXISTS IN BCCAT TRANSFER GUIDE:**

- Yes  
- No

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**Course designer(s):** Gabriela Pechlaner

**Department Head:** Stephen Piper  
**Date approved:** September 21, 2012

**Campus-Wide Consultation (CWC):**  
**Date of meeting:** September 28, 2012

**Curriculum Committee chair:** Tetsuomi Anzai  
**Date approved:** October 12, 2012

**Dean/Associate VP:** Jacqueline Nolte  
**Date approved:** October 12, 2012

**Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval:**  
**Date of meeting:** October 26, 2012
LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
• Utilize key concepts related to environmental justice
• Differentiate between important environmental justice theories
• Identify important research questions related to environmental justice
• Apply environmental justice theories to new applications
• Carry out an effective environmental justice case study

METHODS: (Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)
This course is taught using lecture, small group work, small group and in-class discussion, with supplemental audio visual resources.

METHODS OF OBTAINING PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT RECOGNITION (PLAR):
☑ Examination(s) ☐ Portfolio assessment ☐ Interview(s)
☐ Other (specify): Methods will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
☐ PLAR cannot be awarded for this course for the following reason(s):

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS:
[Textbook selection varies by instructor. An example of texts for this course might be:]


Custom Courseware package (sample readings):


SUPPLIES / MATERIALS:
STUDENT EVALUATION:

[An example of student evaluation for this course might be:]

Mid-term exam: 20%
Paper proposal: 10%
Paper presentation: 10%
Research paper: 25%
In-class work: 10%
Final exam: 25%

COURSE CONTENT:

[Course content varies by instructor. An example of course content might be:]

Week 1: Environmental justice in historical perspective
Week 2: Theoretical perspectives on environmental justice: claims and conceptual frameworks
Week 3: Theoretical perspectives on environmental justice: distributive vs. participative justice
Weeks 4-5: Environmental justice in political context
Week 6: Midterm exam
Week 7: Case study: Louisiana’s chemical alley—agriculture street landfill
Week 8: Case study: Louisiana’s chemical alley—Shintec PVC plant
Weeks 9-10: Environmental justice theories in Canada
Week 11: Environmental justice and Canada’s indigenous people: salmon farming and tainted water
Week 12: Global environmental justice: extraction, waste, and recycling
Week 13: Global environmental justice: climate change