ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

MWF 11-11:50 AM
LOCATION: SEQUO 147

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OFFICE HOURS: WED 2-4 PM
OFFICE LOCATION: SSB243
COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the theme of environmental racism with a strong focus on the experiences of Native Americans. It will connect these instances of injustice to larger social and settler colonial logics and forces, putting forward a critical approach to understanding environmentalism and justice.

*What is Critical?

OBJECTIVES

• Gain a sense of the contemporary dynamics of settler colonialism
• Assess the historical significance of the events at Standing Rock, ND
• Create analytical framework to assess injustice
• Convey experiences of environmental racism of CA Native tribes
• Obtain and develop constructive dialogue and consultation skills
STUDENT OBLIGATIONS:

You’re at University of California, San Diego – one of the best schools in the country (ranking in the top 1.5%).

One of the best attributes of this University is you, the students.

During your time here, you will be creating the foundation for the rest of your professional and adult lives. I have no doubt you will treat this course (and all your projects at UCSD) with the same integrity, perseverance, and dedication that led you and your family to get you into this privileged position. I am honored to be part of your journey of learning for this next quarter.

For generations, those who have left this campus have made a significant mark in their fields, communities and in the progress of humankind and I have no doubt that you all will continue these great responsibilities.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON UCSD POLICIES

For any additional information about school policies please see Student Conduct Code.

UCSD’s commitment to being cool and nice, UC San Diego Principles of Community.
GRADES

NO MIDTERMS
NO IN-CLASS FINAL EXAM
NO MATERIAL COSTS

1. Participation (30%)
2. Reflection Paper (10%)
3. Class Responses (30%)
4. Final Group Project (30%)

I want you to succeed.
PARTICIPATION (30%)

• Class attendance (notify me of why you may be absent)
• Class engagement (readings and discussions)
• Deep reading of assignments (annotation, summarizing, noting questions)
• Class discussions (quality and frequency)

REFLECTION PAPER (10%)

• 2-3 page paper (double spaced)
• Consider your own relationship with the content of the course and answer the following:
  – Why have you taken this course and are there values you hold that have compelled you to take this course?
  – Who are some of the people in your life that have helped you develop or foster those convictions?
  – What, if any, are your expectations for this course?
• This will be due during the end of the Week 1 and will help the instructor shape the course according to our expectations and interests.
CLASS RESPONSES (30%)

- 3 papers (2-3 pages, double spaced) spread throughout the course
- Place into words important aspects of course experience, draw on reading resources
- 2 prompts throughout the quarter and 1 independent response on relevant activity
- Independent Class Response can be about related out-of-class activity or event, relate to course material

FINAL GROUP PROJECT (30%)

- Mixture of research project and a social action
- 2-3 page paper on process and findings
- Students can form groups (based on locality/interest) or carry out individual projects
- Can be social action around issue (community or public presentation, guest speaker/event, collective article to the University or local newspaper, poster presentation at a conference, etc.)
- Creativity and evaluation of effective strategies
- Will discuss during class
Course Schedule

Week 0: Syllabus
Week 1: Settler Colonialism and Environmentalism*
Week 2: White supremacy and Environmentalism
Week 3: Analytical Framework, Final Project, & Reflection*
Week 4: Environment, Cosmology and worldview
Week 5: Representation and injustice (More Than A Word)
Week 6: Standing Rock I
Week 7: Standing Rock II*
Week 8: Final Group Projects
Week 9: Politics of sight
Week 10: Moving forward
Week 11: Finals*

Week 0: Syllabus

Friday, September 29, 2017
No Class Meeting
Read and Write Reflection Paper Due Wed. 10/4

Week 1: Settler Colonialism and Environmentalism

Monday, October 2, 2017
Course Introduction

Wednesday, October 4, 2017
Read: Kauanui, J. Kēhaulani (Kanaka Maoli) and Patrick Wolfe, “Settler Colonialism Then and Now.” Politica & Societa 2: 235-258.

Reflection Paper Due by the end of the day

Friday, October 6, 2017
Week 2: White Supremacy and Environmentalism

Monday, October 9, 2017

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Friday, October 13, 2017

Additional Optional Readings/Resources


The Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians have been targeted for a national high-level nuclear waste dump site. http://www.inearth.org.


Week 3: Analytical Framework, Final Project, & Reflection

Monday, October 16, 2017
Guest Speaker: Orion Kobiyashi

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

Friday, October 20, 2017

Class Response #1 due before beginning of Week 4, Sunday before end of day. Instructions: Focus your efforts on one concept in our class readings and do the following: Identify every mention of the concept throughout our readings, describe how it was used and some of the examples given, do outside research and find at least one other context/issue it was used in, and then describe how you think this concept can be useful in your thinking through issues you’re deeply concerned with.

Week 4: Environment, Cosmology, and Worldview

Monday, October 23, 2017

Wednesday, October 25, 2017
Read: Wildcat, Matthew (Ermineskin Cree), Mandee McDonald (Swampy Cree/Metis), Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox, and Glen Coulthard (Yellowknives Dene). 2014. “Learning

Friday, October 27, 2017
Course review

Week 5: Representation and Injustice

Monday, October 30, 2017

Wednesday, November 1, 2017

Friday, November 3, 2017
Guest Speaker Joey Montoya

More Than A Word, Showing and Q&A with Filmmakers, 5:30pm

Week 6: Standing Rock I

Monday, November 6, 2017
Standing Rock Video

Wednesday, November 8, 2017

Friday, November 10, 2017
No Class Veteran’s Day

Week 7: Standing Rock II & Environmental Justice

Monday, November 13, 2017

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Billy Mills presentation at UCSD

Friday, November 17, 2017

Class Response #2 due before end of day

Week 8: Final Group Projects

Monday, November 20, 2017
Final Projects Updates/Progress

Wednesday, November 22, 2017
No Class Thanksgiving

Friday, November 24, 2017
No Class Thanksgiving

Week 9: California

Monday, November 27, 2017

Wednesday, November 29, 2017
Friday, December 1, 2017

Week 10: Moving Forward

Monday, December 4, 2017
Tuck 2009 Suspending Damage

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

Friday, December 8, 2017

Additional Optional Readings/Resources
Week 11: End of Quarter

Final Exam
   Final Project due on exam day
   We will meet in person on exam day

Fall Quarter Ends