

**ETHN 103: Environmental Racism**  
**MW, 11-1:50pm, SSB 103**  
**Summer 2013**



**Instructor:** Stevie Ruiz

**Office Hours:** MW, 2-3:30pm @ Peete's Coffee (next to RIMAC)

**Course Description:** This five-week course will provide students with the knowledge to understand how built environments, ecological degradation, water privatization and land confiscation have structured racial inequality in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Students will read about the contingent relationships between race, class and economic development that have made people of color and Indigenous populations vulnerable to environmental racism. Together, we will examine the core methods and theories that environmental justice advocates have employed to contest racial, class, gendered and sexual hierarchies. In so doing, we will analyze how anti-racism has challenged mainstream environmentalism to consider how ecological crises negatively impact people of color. With this interdisciplinary approach, students will read scholarly debates within the fields of environmental studies, ethnic studies, sexuality studies, and Indigenous studies.

**Accommodations:** I wish to make this course as accessible as possible to students with disabilities or medical conditions that may affect any aspect of course assignments or participation. If you require specific accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible. Also, if you prefer to be called by a different name than the one with which you are enrolled, I will also be happy to accommodate.

**Classroom Policy:** a) Restricted laptop use, no wi-fi b) Each assignment must be submitted on time, late submissions are **not** accepted, and c) All assignments must be completed in order to receive a course grade

**Guiding Principles:** Along with the UCSD Principles of Community, the following guidelines are the basis for meaningful discussions.

- Assume nothing
- Respect is key
- Support your arguments by engaging the texts

**Course Requirements**

<u>Assignments</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>	
Attendance/Participation: 25%	94-100	A 73-75 C
Response papers: 20%	90-93	A- 70-72 C-
Midterm: 20%	86-89	B+ 66-69 D+
Final project: 25%	83-85	B 63-65 D
Film paper: 10%	80-82	B- 60-63 D-
	76-79	C+ 0-60 F

- Attendance & Participation (25%): Students must come to all class meetings having read required material and prepared to discuss readings in depth. Students will be expected to select a class meeting where they will present on the readings for that assigned day. Every unexcused absence after **one** missed class will automatically result in a **10%** deduction from your final letter grade. Lateness is unacceptable.
- Critical response papers (20%): Two 2-3 double spaced papers, submit via TED
- Critical film paper (10%): Critical film review paper, submit via TED
- Midterm (20%): Answer prompt that will be provided, submit via TED
- Final project and presentation (25%): Handout with instructions will be distributed during second week of the quarter

**Required Texts:** \*All readings are available via TED, accessible at <http://ted.ucsd.edu>

### **PART I: Environmental Racism**

#### **Week 1: Racialization of Built Environments**

- Mon. 7/1: Introduction to class
- Wed. 7/3: \*Lisa S. Park and David N. Pellow, "Racial Formation, Environmental Racism, and the Emergence of Silicon Valley", p. 403-424  
\*Laura Pulido, "Rethinking Environmental Racism", p. 12-40
- Fri. 7/5: Critical response paper due, submit via TED by 5:00pm

#### **Week 2: Contamination, Water Rights and Land Conflict**

- Mon. 7/8: \*Eric Boime, "National Moat, Regional Lifeline: The Campaign for the All-American Canal, 1917-1944", p. 161-178  
\*William Deverell, "Chapter 3: Remembering a River," p. 91-128
- Wed. 7/10: \*Laura Pulido, "Chapter 4: Granados del Valle: Resource Management as Contested Terrain, 1965-1971", p. 125-190
- Fri. 7/12: Midterm due, submit via TED by 5:00pm

### **PART II: Environmental Justice**

#### **Week 3: Critical Responses to Unnatural Disasters**

- Mon. 7/15: \*Clyde Woods, "Chapter 6: The Enclosure Movement", p. 121-15  
\*Clyde Woods, "Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans?", p. 1005-1018  
\*Curtis Marez, "What is a disaster?", p. ix-xi
- Wed. 7/17: \*Long T. Bui, "Refugee Bodily Orbits", p. 829-830  
\*Sunni Patterson, "We Know This Place", p. 719-721  
\*Jordan T. Camp, "We Know This Place: Neoliberal Racial Regimes and the Katrina Circumstance", p. 693-717  
\*Zenia Kish, "My Fema People: Hip Hop as Disaster Recovery in the Katrina Diaspora," p. 671-692
- Fri. 7/19: Critical film paper due, submit via TED by 5:00pm

#### **Week 4: Environmental Degradation Under U.S. Militarism and Prisons**

- Mon. 7/22: \*John Howard, "Palomares Bajo", August 2011  
\*Winona LaDuke, "The Military and the Land", p. 31-74

- \*Doug Brugge and Rob Goble, "The History of Uranium Mining and the Navajo People", p. 1410-1419
- \*Deborah Berman Santana, "Resisting Toxic Militarism: Vieques Versus the U.S. Navy", p. 37-47
- Wed. 7/24: \*Rose Braz and Craig Gilmore, "Prisons and Environmental Justice in Recent Prison Organizing", p. 95-111
- \*Saed, "Prison Abolition as an Ecosocialist Struggle," p. 1-5
- \*Ruth Wilson Gilmore, "Chapter 4: Crime, Croplands and Capitalism," p. 128-180
- Fri. 7/26: Critical response paper due, submit via TED by 5:00pm

Week 5: Gender and Sexuality in Environmental Justice Activism
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- Mon. 7/29: \*Andrea Smith, "Chapter 3: Rape of the Land", p. 55-78
- \*Joe Bandy, "Reterritorializing Borders: Transnational Environmental Justice Movements on the U.S./Mexico Border", p. 80-103
- Wed. 7/31: \*Greta Gaard, "Toward a Queer Ecofeminism", p. 21-44
- \*Noel Sturgeon, "The Power is Yours, Planeteers!' Race, Gender and Sexuality in Children's Environmental Popular Culture", p. 262-276

Final
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- Fri. 8/2: Final project and presentation, 11:30am-2:30pm in SSB 103

## Bibliography

- Bandy, Joe, "Reterritorializing Borders: Transnational Environmental Justice Movements on the U.S./Mexico Border." *Race, Gender and Class* (1997): 80-103.
- Boime, Eric. "National Moat, Regional Lifeline: The Campaign for the All-American Canal, 1917-1944." *Journal of Borderland Studies* (2011): 161-178.
- Braz, Rose and Craig Gilmore. "Joining Forces: Prisons and Environmental Justice in Recent California Organizing." *Radical History Review* (2006), p. 95-111.
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- Bui, Long T. "Refugee Bodily Orbits." *American Quarterly* 61, no. 3 (2009), p. 829-830.
- Camp, Jordan T. "We Know This Place: Neoliberal Racial Regimes and the Katrina Circumstance." *American Quarterly* 61, no. 3 (2009), p. 693-717.
- Deverell, William. "Chapter 3: Remembering a River," In *Whitewashed Adobe: The Rise of Los Angeles and the Remaking of its Mexican Past*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004.
- Gaard, Greta. "Toward a Queer Ecofeminism." In *New Perspectives on Environmental Justice: Gender, Sexuality and Activism*, edited by Rachel Stein. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 2004, 21-44.
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- Howard, John. "Palomares Bajo," *Southern Spaces*, August 2011.
- Kish, Zenia. "My Fema People: Hip Hop as Disaster Recovery in the Katrina Diaspora." *American Quarterly* 61, no. 3 (2009), p. 671-692.
- LaDuke, Winona. "Chapter 3: The Military and the Land." In *The Militarization of Indian Country*, edited by Winonan LaDuke and Sean Cruz, East Lansing: University of Michigan Press, 2013.
- Marez, Curtis. "What is a disaster?" *American Quarterly* 61, no. 3 (2009), p. ix-xi
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- Pulido, Laura. "Chapter 4: Granados del Valle: Resource Management as Contested Terrain, 1965-1971." In *Environmentalism and Economic Justice: Two Chicano Struggles in the Southwest*. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1996.
- Pulido, Laura. "Rethinking Environmental Racism: White Privilege and Urban Development in Southern California." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90, no. 1 (2000): 12-40.
- Park, Lisa Sun-Hee and David N. Pellow. "Racial Formation, Environmental Racism, and the Emergence of Silicon Valley." *Ethnicities* 4, no. 3 (2004): 403-424.
- Saed, "Prison Abolition as an Ecosocialist Struggle," *Capitalism Nature Socialism* 23, no. 1 (2012): 1-5.

- Santana, Deborah Berman. "Resisting Toxic Militarism: Vieques Versus the U.S. Navy." *Social Justice* 29, no. ½ (2002): 37-47.
- Smith, Andrea. "Chapter 3: Rape of the Land." In *Conquest: Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide*, 55-78. Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2005.
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- Woods, Clyde. "Do You Know What it Means to Miss New Orleans?: Katrina, Trap Economics, and the Rebirth of the Blues." *American Quarterly* 57, no. 4 (2005): 1005-1018.
- Woods, Clyde. "Chapter 6: The Enclosure Movement." In *Development Arrested: The Blues and Plantation Power in the Mississippi Delta*. London: Verso Publications, 1998.

### **Majoring or Minor in Ethnic Studies at UCSD**

Many students take an Ethnic Studies course because the topic is of great interest or because of a need to fulfill a social science, non-contiguous, or other college requirement. Often students have taken three or four classes out of interest yet do not realize how close they are to a major, a minor, or even a double major. An Ethnic Studies major is excellent preparation for a career in law, education, medicine, public health, social work, counseling, journalism, government and politics, international relations, and many other careers. If you would like information about the Ethnic Studies major or minor, please contact:

Daisy Rodríguez, Ethnic Studies Department Undergraduate Advisor  
858-534-3277 or [d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu](mailto:d1rodriguez@ucsd.edu) or visit [www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu](http://www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu)

### **Student Consent for Release of Student Information**

I hereby authorize the UCSD Ethnic Studies Department to return my graded final examination/research paper by placing the examination/research paper in a location accessible to all students in the course. I understand that the return of my examination/research paper as described above may result in the disclosure of personally identifiable information, that is not public information as defined in UCSD PPM 160-2, and I hereby consent to the disclosure of such information.

Quarter: **Summer 2013, Session I**  
Course: **ETHN 103: Environmental Racism**  
Instructor: **Stevie Ruiz**  
Student I.D.#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_