Environmental Inequality
Soci 199, Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Perkins
t Tracy.perkins@howard.edu

Class: Monday/Wednesday/Friday: 12:10-1
 Douglass Hall room 204

Office hours: MWF 1-2, Douglass Hall 210C

“The challenge of modernity is to live without illusions and without becoming disillusioned.”
- Antonio Gramsci

The aims of this course are to:
• Learn about the problems of environmental inequality and how different social actors are trying to solve them.
• Improve critical reading, analysis, writing and discussion skills.
• Learn research methods while contributing to the Washington D.C. community.
• Create a productive, respectful and creative learning environment and intellectual community.

On completion of this course students should be able to:
• Analyze societal experiences of the environment through the lens of race, class and gender.
• Analyze multiple theories of what causes environmental inequality.
• Analyze environmental justice as both a theoretical lens and an advocacy arena.
• Analyze U.S. government, non-profit and social-movement responses to environmental inequalities.
• Engage real cases of environmental inequalities and environmental justice advocacy in domestic and international settings.
• Create a booklet of edited oral histories for residents living near the Buzzard Point redevelopment zone in Washington, D.C.

Required Readings
All texts will be available on the course Blackboard site.

Class Time
Our class time will take a variety of formats including lecture, discussion, small group discussion, film, class activities, and time for individual written reflection. I encourage you to ask questions during lectures. A few guidelines:

- Come to class prepared by having done all the assigned reading and taking notes on it.
- Bring your readings and notes to class every day, we will sometimes refer to them in small-group work.

**Names and Gender Pronouns in the Classroom**
We will provide an opportunity in class for every student to share their preferred name and gender pronoun (he, she, they, etc.). For example, I will ask you to call me Dr. Perkins, and to reference my gender with the words “she” or “her.” Share whatever pronoun you feel most comfortable with in a classroom setting. Please make every effort to call your peers by their preferred gender pronouns for the duration of the semester.

Keep in mind the following campus statement on federal Title IX law:

“Howard University reaffirms its commitment to provide students with educational opportunities free from sexual harassment and discrimination based upon gender, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, or marital status. In furtherance of this commitment, the University strives to maintain an environment in which all members of the University Community are: (a) judged and rewarded solely on the basis of ability, experience, effort, and performance; and (b) provided conditions for educational pursuits that are free from gender-based coercion, intimidation, or exploitation.”

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>% of course grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance, Participation and Discussion Facilitation</td>
<td>We will sign up for dates in class</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annotated Reading Portfolio</td>
<td>At random</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td>Midnight of the day prior to when the readings are due</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborative Research Project</td>
<td>See dates below and in syllabus</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>Dec. 8, 10am</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Collaborative Research Project**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>% of course grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IRB documents</td>
<td>Sept. 1</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buzzard Point “Toxic Tour”</td>
<td>Sat. Sept. 9, 10am-noon</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code two interviews + reflection essay</td>
<td>Sept. 22</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Code all interviews to date with your assigned code + reflection essay</td>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>40%</td>
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Discussion Facilitation
Each student will sign up for one class session in which you will facilitate discussion and other learning activities of your choice. You will have 30 minutes of class time to work with. You will be provided with a list of ideas for how to use the time, as well as tips on how to facilitate effective discussions.

Annotated Readings Portfolio
You will maintain a portfolio of your readings over the course of the semester and bring it to every class. The portfolio will consist of a heavy duty three-ring binder that will contain annotated printouts of each reading. You may choose to keep your class notes and returned response essays in the portfolio as well, but they will not constitute part of your portfolio grade. The purpose of the portfolio is to ensure that you are printing out, reading and annotating the readings each week and that you have them available for consultation in class. You will need to bring the portfolio to every class. You will turn in your binder for review at random throughout the semester.

How to Annotate a Reading
Annotation is more than highlighting and underlining. It means making written notes as you read to identify key terms and concepts, to flag questions that you have, and to assist you in following the arguments of the authors. This is usually done on the page of the text using underlining and circling of text and making notes in the margins. One advantage of working with printouts is that if you only print them on one side you can make more extensive notes on the blank side. Annotation helps you focus on the reading, improves comprehension, and helps you to better remember the content of the reading.

Annotation is kind of like having a conversation with a text while you read it. Some basic annotation techniques are:

- Identifying and underling key terms, concepts and passages.
- Circling definitions.
- Writing definitions in the margins.
- Writing questions that you have in response to the text.
- Writing opinions you have about particular passages.
- Summarizing the main points of sections as you finish them.

An especially useful technique is to make an outline of the whole reading on back of the last page, dividing it up into sections and sub-sections in order to see the overall structure of the argument being made. Annotation is crucial to making a close reading of any difficult text.

Reading Portfolio Materials
In order to maintain the portfolio you will need to purchase or otherwise obtain:
• A heavy duty 1½” or 2” wide three-ring binder
• A reliable stapler
  A reliable three-hole punch

Reading Responses
You are responsible for writing one reading response for the readings covered for each class session. The response should cover all of the readings assigned for that day. These will be uploaded into the “Reading Responses” section of our class website Blackboard. Please copy-paste your text into the box available rather than uploading a PDF or Word document. If you use any of the author’s words in your response, be sure to use appropriate parenthetical/in-text reference information (https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/02/). Each reading response should be 300-400 words long, and should include:
  1) a brief description of the key points made in that day’s readings
  2) your analysis of the readings
  3) any questions you may have

Over the course of the semester you will write reading responses for every day of class except the first day of class and the last day of class (between, and including, Aug. 23 and Nov. 27). You may upload your responses until 11:59pm of the day prior to when the readings are due, when Blackboard will close the assignment. Late responses will not be accepted. You may miss three reading responses without penalty. These three "passes" are designed to accommodate disruptions to your studies that are outside your control such as illness, deaths in the family, and other emergencies. If you complete readings responses for all of the readings, you will receive 2 extra credit points towards your final grade.

Collaborative Research Project
This semester we will work on a collaborative research project with the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum, Empower DC, and ANC commissioner Rhonda Hamilton from the neighborhood directly adjacent to Buzzard Point in Washington, D.C. Buzzard Point is currently being redeveloped. It will be the site of the new DC United Soccer Stadium and many other new construction projects. Last year students in this class conducted oral history interviews with residents living near Buzzard Point to document their family history in the neighborhood, relationship to the community and to the adjacent Anacostia River, and experiences with pollution and development. Other students continued the interviewing process in the spring and summer of this year. This semester, we will use “code” the interviews in order to begin analyzing them. This work will eventually result in the creation of a booklet to be printed by the Anacostia Museum and given back to residents. The Anacostia Community Museum will then add the transcripts to their archives and finalize and print the booklet to distribute. You will be provided with detailed assignment prompts to guide each stage of your work as the course progresses. We will host guest speakers as well as go on a field trip to Buzzard Point as part of this project.

Attendance, Late Policies and Missed Exams
• All students are expected to attend classes regularly and promptly. It is especially important to attend the FIRST meeting of each class. It is there that you will receive much of the information critical to your success in the class – syllabi, handouts, names of
textbooks, instructor contact information, class format, etc. Similarly, important announcements regarding ongoing class assignments and deadlines will be announced at the beginning of each class section. If you are absent from or late to class, you are still responsible for the work and announcements missed.

- There are no make-ups for reading responses.
- Late assignments other than the readings responses can be turned in anytime between the end of the class in which they are due and 48 hours after the end of class for reduced credit of one full letter grade. You do not need to ask my permission to take advantage of this opportunity. Late assignments will not be accepted after this 48-hour period.

Communications

- The less time I spend responding to individual e-mails, the more time I have to prepare for leading a high-quality class. To that end, before you send me a question via e-mail, first check my syllabus to see if the information you want is listed there. Also, I will not respond to questions about the concepts covered in class via e-mail. These are best asked in class or office hours.
- I will use your Howard e-mail account for any outside of class communication with you that does not take place through Blackboard. You are responsible for checking this account regularly. If you do not check it daily, I suggest you set your Howard account to forward to the account that you do check daily.

Plagiarism
Any act of academic misconduct, such as cheating or plagiarizing on assignments and exams, is a serious violation of the University’s norms of conduct. Students who plagiarize or cheat on assignments or exams receive an F in the course and will be reported to the Dean of the College of Arts and Science for further sanctions, including possible suspension from the University. Read the Academic Code of Student Conduct for more information: https://www.howard.edu/policy/academic/student-conduct.htm

Writing
Writing is an essential tool for thinking and communicating in virtually every discipline and profession. Therefore, in this course I expect you to produce writing that is not only thoughtful and accurate, but also organized, clear, grammatically correct, and consistent with the conventions of the field. If your writing does not meet these standards, I may deduct points or ask you to revise. For assistance with your writing, go to the student section of the Writing across the Curriculum (WAC) website, http://www.cetla.howard.edu/wac/students.aspx.

Disability
Howard University is committed to providing an educational environment that is accessible to all students. In accordance with this policy, students who need accommodations because of a disability should contact the Dean for Special Student Services (202-238-2420) as soon as possible after admission to the University or at the beginning of each semester. Please document and discuss your disability with me during the first week of classes. Find more information about how to get academic accommodations here http://www.howard.edu/specialstudentservices/.
Resources

• Tutoring for General Education classes [http://undergraduatestudies.howard.edu/cae/tutor-clearinghouse](http://undergraduatestudies.howard.edu/cae/tutor-clearinghouse)
• Writing tutoring for any class: [http://www.coas.howard.edu/writingcenter/](http://www.coas.howard.edu/writingcenter/)
• How to get tested for a learning disability: [https://www.howard.edu/specialstudentservices/DisabledStudents.htm](https://www.howard.edu/specialstudentservices/DisabledStudents.htm)
• Howard University Counseling Service [https://www.howard.edu/services/counseling/nav%20links/services.html](https://www.howard.edu/services/counseling/nav%20links/services.html)
• How to report sexual harassment or sexual violence [https://www2.howard.edu/title-ix](https://www2.howard.edu/title-ix)
• Academic counseling and choosing a major [http://undergraduatestudies.howard.edu/cae/](http://undergraduatestudies.howard.edu/cae/)
• For help finding information, ask a librarian! [http://library.howard.edu/content.php?pid=485081&sid=3987279#14737326](http://library.howard.edu/content.php?pid=485081&sid=3987279#14737326)
Class Schedule

I. Introduction

Aug. 21: First day of class, no reading

Aug. 23: Conceptualizing the environment and environmentalism

Aug. 25: Class Project Day - Action Research

II. Environmental Inequality

August 28: Toxic distribution

August 30: Cumulative impacts of toxic exposure
• Morello Frosch, Rachel, Miriam Zuk, Michael Jerrett, Bhavna Shamasunder, and Amy D. Kyle. 2011. “Understanding the Cumulative Impacts of Inequalities in Environmental Health: Implications for Policy.” Health Affairs 30(5):879-887.

September 1: Class Project Day - Introduction to Coding
Due: Research ethics assignment

Sept. 4: Labor Day, no class

September 6: Accidents
September. 8: Class Project Day - Buzzard Point
Guest speaker: Jesse Card

  - Health and Demographics
  - Development
- Buzzard Point Map. Retrieved October 3, 2016 (https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?mid=1yHTpogW04FKJ75yR0hMew94QG0o)

Saturday September 9, 10am-noon
“Toxic Tour” of Buzzard Point with ANC Commissioner Rhonda Hamilton

September 11: Disasters

September 13: Climate Change (facilitator: Jamaica Gaines)

September 15: Disaster, climate, change and social inequality
Speaker: Michelle Dovil

September 18: Environmental Gentrification (facilitator: Emani Curry Jester)

September 20: Diversity in the Environmental Movement
Guest speaker: Erika West, Green 2.0 Campaign Director

  - Executive Summary, (pgs. 1-7)
  - Ch. 8: Reflections from Environmental Practitioners (pgs. 140-171)
September 22: No class
Due: “Code two interviews + reflection paper
HU Opening Convocation, classes suspended 10-1

III. What Causes Environmental Inequality?

September 25: Inequitable participation in environmental decision-making

September 27: Regulations, the market, social capital, discrimination

September 29: Class Project Day: The Anacostia River

October 2: Racial Liberalism and Racial Capitalism (facilitator: Shelby Harrell)

IV. What is being done?

October 4: Community Organizing

October 6: Women activists (facilitator: Sheena Samuel)

October 9: Regulatory reform
Columbus Day/Indigenous People’s Day
October 11: Resisting Green Gentrification


October 13: Class Project Day – Oral history


October 16: Market-based Solutions? (facilitator: Ayana Albertini-Fleurent)


October 18: Transnational advocacy (facilitator: Audre’ana Ellis)


October 20: Yardfest, no class

*Due: Code all interviews to date with your assigned code, + reflection essay*

October 23: Storytelling (facilitator: Naomi)


V. Environmental Inequality: Broadening the Lens

October 25: Dispossession (facilitator: Caleb Edwards)

  - Pgs. 218-228
  - Pgs. 268-293

October 27: Slavery (facilitator: Courtney)


October 30: Survival


November 1: Cultural Symbols (facilitator: Lorenzo)

November 3: Parks and Recreation

November 6: Environmental Privilege

November 8: Environmental Justice and Police Power
• Dillon, Lindsey and Julie Sze.2016. “Police Power and Particulate Matters: Environmental Justice and the Spatialities of In/securities in U.S. Cities.” English Language Notes.

November 10: Veteran’s Day, no classes

November 13: Pests, Nature and Social Inequality

November 15: Book in progress by Dr. Perkins
• Introduction

November 17: Book in progress by Dr. Perkins
• Chapter 1

November 20: Book in progress by Dr. Perkins
• Chapter 3
November 22: All classes suspended at noon, no class


November 24: Thanksgiving Holiday, no class

VI. Final Thoughts

November 27:

  - Selections

November 29:

Assignment due: Code remaining interviews with your assigned codes + reflection essay

  - Pgs. 1-32

December 8, 10am

Final paper due