



## **UNCO 1301.section: Environmental Justice**

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2019

### **INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

**Instructor:** Johanna Delgado Acevedo, Ph.D. (assisted by Supplemental Instructors)

**Office Location:** STC 262

**Office Hours:** T&TR 2-4:00

**Office Phone:** 903 468 3333

**Office Fax:** 903 468 3323

**University Email Address:** johanna.delgado-acevedo@tamuc.edu

**Preferred Form of Communication:** email

**Communication Response Time:** within 24 hours

### **COURSE INFORMATION**

#### ***Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings***

##### ***Textbook(s) Required***

*Noxious New York: The Racial Politics of Urban Health and Environmental Justice*, by Julie Sze (MIT Press, 2007) ["Sze" in course schedule below]

*Power, Justice and the Environment: A Critical Appraisal of the Environmental Justice Movement*, edited by David Naguib Pellow and Robert J. Brulle (MIT Press, 2005) ["P&B" in course schedule below]

##### ***Course Description***

A Signature Course at Texas A&M University- Commerce offers first-year students the opportunity to explore unique topics in engaging learning environments. Students develop college-level skills in communication, critical thinking, and social responsibility through a rigorous intellectual experience.

## ***Student Learning Outcomes***

1. Students will be able to analyze, evaluate, or solve problems when given a set of circumstances, data, texts, or art.
2. Students will communicate in a manner appropriate to audience and occasion in either written, oral and/or visual format with an evident message and organizational structure.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of societal and/or civic issues.
4. Develop a general understanding of environmental justice and be able to identify factors that contribute to the existence of disparities in environmental outcomes.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### ***Instructional Methods***

Lectures

Assignments

Individual work, analysis of free reading

Written synthesis of information

### ***Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course***

University students are a select group of students soon to be professionals.

Instructors can have high expectations of student performance.

Demanding courses benefit students more than easy courses.

Assignments are due on time unless you have made a prior arrangement with me (only granted for unusual or extenuating circumstances and in case of health issues proper medical excuse is required).

Reading and assimilating information is a critical part of your current and continuing education. This will help you become a better writer, a more rounded individual, and expose you to subjects outside of your immediate knowledge.

## **GRADING**

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

## **Assessments**

Team Presentations/ Projects

Discussion Question Generation

Quizzes

Exams

The Lionizing: a culminating event required of all sections of UNCO 1301. At this public event, students will present their work to the entire University Community. The instructor will determine the format of these presentations. Suggestions include poster presentations, short talks, installations, oral presentations and/or proposals, et cetera. Students will be present at the Lionizing to take questions about their work. At The Lionizing a team of assessors will circulate the event with a rubric that will evaluate how well your project:

- Demonstrates critical thinking
- Demonstrates your understanding of your social responsibility
- Demonstrates your excellent written and oral communication skills

This assessment will not influence your grade; instead, it helps the University College assess how well our Signature Courses are helping students meet important outcomes. **The Spring 2019 Lionizing will be in the Sam Rayburn Student Center (date TBA).**

## **TECHNOLOGY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

The electronic gradebook on D2L will be used in this course.

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace [D2L] , please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778 or click on the **Live Chat** or click on the words “[click here](#)” to submit an issue via email.

## **COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

## ***University Specific Procedures***

### **Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

### **TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

### **ADA Statement**

#### **Students with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a

learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

## **Office of Student Disability Resources and Services**

Texas A&M University-Commerce

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

## **Nondiscrimination Notice**

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

## ***Campus Concealed Carry Statement***

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

# **COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

## **Week 1**

What is Environmental Justice?

**Readings:** P&B, ch. 1; Sze, Introduction

## **Week 2**

Theorizing justice

Theorizing social difference

**Readings:** Will be provided

## **Week 3**

Race, class and the environment

Race, class and environment

**Readings:** Will be provided

## **Week 4**

Intentionality vs. Structural Bias: Legal Definitions and Institutions

Environmental Justice and the state, Policy, Politics and Practice

**Readings:** P&B, ch. 9, 10, 11

## ***Exam 1***

## **Week 5**

Environmental Justice and the City 1: Apartheid in Los Angeles?

Environmental Justice and the City 2: The Drowning of New Orleans

**Readings:** Will be provided

### **Week 6**

Katrina, Racism and Justice *Dyson 2006 (When the Levies broke – part 1)*

Katrina, Racism and Justice (continued)

**Readings:** Will be provided

### **Week 7**

Environmental Justice in the City 3: Sze, ch. 2-3 Noxious New York?

EJ in NYC Sze, ch. 4-5

### **Week 8**

Environmental Justice and the City 3: Site Selection, Sewage and Syracuse

**Readings:** Will be provided

### **Week 9**

Sze, ch. 6, Conclusion

### **Week 10**

Revisiting urban environmental justice: In search of common processes and struggles

EJ and the global economy 2: *BAN 2002* E-waste and dumping in the global South

**Readings:** Will be provided

***Exam 2***

**Week 11**

Native Americans and EJ: The Onondaga Nation Land Rights Action

EJ and the global economy 1: Oil and indigenous people in Ecuador

**Week 12**

Climate justice 1: Peru De-glaciation, water availability and justice

Climate justice 2: Bangladesh Sea level rise and flooding

**Readings:** Will be provided

**Week 13**

Nature conservation as social exclusion

**Readings:** Will be provided

**Week 14**

Toward just sustainability P&B, ch. 17

Group presentations

**Week 15**

Group presentations



\* The Lionizing will be announce later.