This course examines issues central to the environmental justice movement in the United States: environmental degradation and pollution and their relationship to racism, poverty, work, and health. We explore the history of this movement and investigate the effect of globalization on a growing international environmental justice movement. Through case studies, we critically analyze multiparty environmental justice disputes considering the role of grassroots activism, political organizing, the law, and alternative forms of dispute resolution as tools for the prevention and redress of environmental injustice. Exploration of relevant scholarship, case studies, and a site visit provide the foundation for coursework.

Readings
A reader is available for purchase at Collective Copies in Amherst.
Two required books are available at Food For Thought Bookstore in Amherst: From the Ground Up and Environmental Justice.
The reader and both texts are on reserve in the W.E.B. DuBois Library.

Grading
15% Attendance and participation in class and at site visit
25% Approximately 5 short (2+ page) papers
25% Issue paper on an environmental justice dilemma
35% Research project (a presentation, paper, or other project) due by the last day of class

All work is to be completed by each student individually unless you propose a collaborative writing or research assignment and clear this with Leah. At the close of class sessions all materials (ie: handouts and assignments) will be placed on the 497N shelf in the Legal Studies main office in Gordon Hall. Students are responsible for keeping up-to-date on assignments, changes in the syllabus, and staying in communication with Leah if missing a class is unavoidable. Please contact Leah if you have any special needs so that proper accommodations can be made.

Environmental Justice
Legal Studies 497N
Spring 2006

Class Schedule

Note: Dates listed are when assignments are due. An additional response paper will be due after the site visit.

2/7 From Reader: Tarter’s “Some Live More Downstream Than Others” and Freudenberg’s “Science and Politics” from Not in Our Backyards! From text: Cole and Foster’s “Preface” in From The Ground Up.

2/14 Reader: “McGurty’s “From NIMBY to Civil Rights” and Johnson’s “Environmental Justice for All.”
Text: Cole and Foster’s “Chapter One” from The Ground Up.
2 page response paper due.

2/21 No class due to University schedule

Text: Shrader-Frechette’s “Chapter Two: Distributive Justice....”
2 page response paper due.

3/7 Reader: Matsuda’s “Critical Race Theory and Critical Legal Studies....” and Bullard’s “Chapter Seven: Environmental Politics in Alabama’s Blackbelt.”
Text: Shrader-Frechette’s “Chapter Seven: Risky Occupational Environments...” [pp. 152-162 optional].
Web search assignment due.


3/21 Spring Break

3/28 No class

4/4 Text: Cole and Foster’s “Chapter Four: Buttonwillow”
Text: Shrader-Frechette’s “Chapter Four: African Americans, LULUs, and Free Informed Consent.” Issue paper due.
Fall 2004

Class Schedule

4/11 Reader: Chapters 2 and 5 from *Environmental Policy and NEPA* and Bullard’s “Chapter Twelve: Environmentalism with Justice.”

4/18 Text: Cole and Foster’s “Chapter Five”
Reader: Bullard’s “Dispute Resolution and Toxics: Case Studies” from *Dumping in Dixie*.

2 page response paper due.

5/2 Text: Shrader-Frechette’s “Chapter Eight: Developing Nations, Equal Protection, and the Limits of Moral Heroism.
*Read one of the following from the Reader:*
   a) Excerpts from “Chapter Eleven: Global Threats to People of Color” by Alston and Brown from Bullard’s *Confronting Environmental Racism* (pp.184-194).
   b) “Chapter Six: Wasting the World: Enclosure, Accumulation, and Local Environmental Struggles on a Global Scale” from Girdner and Smith’s *Killing Me Softly* (pp.115-130).
*Read one of the following from the Reader:*
   a) “The Environment for Sustainable Development” by Wolfensohn, President of the World Bank.
   b) “Green Shoots Grow From the Private Sector” by Lichtinger, ED of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation.
   c) “It Pays to Move Beyond Your Own Backyard” by Abdoo, Chair and CEO of Wisconsin Electric Power Company.

5/9 Text: Chapter Seven in Cole and Foster: “Transformative Politics.”
“Chapter Fifteen: Sustaining the ‘Urban Forest’ and Creating Landscapes of Hope” from *The Environmental Justice Reader.*
Research project and any rewrites are due.

5/16 Class closure