

Reading Course for Sustainability and Environmental Justice

Topics: Sustainable Development, Aboriginal Community Development, Environmental Health, Environmental Justice, Aboriginal Resource Use and Land Use, Cultural Landscapes,

Course Description:

Sustainability is, at its most fundamental level, about sharing the planet's resources with the future in equitable ways. This distributive justice, when extended to present generations, recognizes that the costs of resource development and technological expansion should be born by those who reap its benefits. Choosing between environment and inequality, rather than seeing these issues as integrated, separates issues from lived realities. To drink deeply from the well of sustainable development, to realize both its possibilities as well as its barriers in society, both these issues must be viewed in tandem.

The definition of sustainability will be expanded to include land distribution, traditional ecological knowledge, social impacts and the many stories of people's relationship to the land. These stories often tell of struggles with resource alienation, loss of subsistence economies and destruction of cultures. In looking through the eyes of the poor and marginalized we realize that humans cannot live apart from the rest of nature, which is our life-sustaining context. After all, the poor and marginalized of the world are the ones who bear the brunt of pollution, resource degradation and dislocation, whether as a result of a dam, toxic waste, lack of arable land, ozone depletion or global climate change, simply because they are more vulnerable and lack alternatives.

Course Objectives:

1. A literature review of the topic areas related to First Nations, Sustainable Development and Social Capital (dissertation topic).
2. Co-author a paper with Dr. Shirley Thompson about community health and development in Aboriginal communities.
3. Do a library search for sources for literature review for dissertation research proposal.
4. Edit the poster produced for an assignment in Dr. Thompson's class, 56.720 The Role of Information Technology in Resource Management.
5. Prepare a paper to present at the SSHRC congress or Ocean's Management Research Network.
6. Write a proposal to receive funding.

Course Format:

The course will consist of working on projects (presentation, paper, library search, poster, funding proposal). Discussions will result from the reading material and its potential for informing the content and direction of the projects.

Evaluation:

Five assignments will constitute 100 percent of the course mark: These involve:

- 1) Presentation (15 percent)
- 2) Environmental Health Article (30 percent)
- 3) Funding Proposal (30 percent)
- 4) Poster (15 percent)
- 5) Literature Review (10 percent)

Reading List (we will select from these references based on interest and requirements of projects):

Asch, M. 2002. "Self-Government in the New Millennium" in *Nation to Nation : Aboriginal Sovereignty and the Future of Canada*. Ed by J. Bird, L. Land and M. Macadam. Toronto: Public Justice Resource Centre.

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Battiste, M. 1997. "Structural Unemployment: the Mi'kmaq Experience" edited by Joe, R. and Lesley Choyce. *The Mi'kmaq Anthology*. East Lawrencetown: Pottersfield Press.

Bedford, D. and D. Irving. 2001. *The Tragedy of Progress: Marxism, Modernity and the Aboriginal Question*. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing.

Been, V. and F. Gupta. 1997. "Coming to the nuisance or going to the barrios? A longitudinal analysis of environmental justice claims." *Ecology Law Quarterly*, vol. 24, no. 1.

Berry. K. 1998. "Race for Water? Native Americans, Eurocentrism, and Western Water Policy" in *Environmental Injustices, Political Struggles: Race, Class, and the Environment*. Ed. by David Camacho. London: Duke University Press.

Brown, P., and Ferguson, F. 1995. "Making a big stink: Women's work, women's relationships, and toxic waste activism" in *Gender Society*. 9, 145-172

Bowers, C. 2001. *Educating for Eco-Justice and Community*. Athens: University of Georgia Press.

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Chapeskie, A. 2002. "Liberating Canada from the Settler Mythology" in *Nation to Nation : Aboriginal Sovereignty and the Future of Canada*. Ed by J. Bird, L. Land and M. Macadam. Toronto: Public Justice Resource Centre.

Chaudhuri, N. 1998. "Child Health, Poverty and the Environment: The Canadian Context." *Canadian Journal of Public Health Volume 89-Supplement 1.* Ottawa: Canadian Journal of Public Health.

Chen, D. 1997. "Linking Social Equity with Liveable Communities" In *Just Transportation: Dismantling Race and Class Barriers to Mobility*. Ed. by Bullard and Johnson. Gabriola: New Society Publishers.

Churchill, W. 1994. *Indians are Us?* Toronto: Between the Lines.

Churchill, W. 1999. *Native North American Resistance to Genocide, Ecocide and Colonization: Struggle for the Land*. Winnipeg: Arbeiter Ring Publishing.

Coates, K. 2000. *The Marshall Decision and Native Rights*. Toronto: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Cobb, C. and T. Halstead, and J. Rowe. 1995. "If the GDP is Up, Why is America Down: Why we need new measures of progress, why we do not have them, and how they would change the social and political landscape" in *Atlantic Monthly* October 1995. 12-25.

Environment Canada. Environmental Conservation Service. Indicators and

Assessment Office. *Ecological Assessment of the Boreal Shield Ecozone*. Natty Urquizo, Jamie Bostedo, Tom Brydges and Harvey shear (eds.) Ottawa: Minister of Public Works and Government Service, Canada, 2000.

Fanon, F. 1964. *Toward the African Revolution*. New York: Grove Press Inc.

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Fitzpatrick, K and M. LaGory. 2000. *Unhealthy Places: The Ecology of Risk in the Urban Landscape*. New York: Routledge.

Goldman, B. 1993. *Not Just Prosperity: Achieving Sustainability with Environmental Justice*. Vienna: National Wildlife Federation.

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- International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC): <http://www.iarc.fr>
- Jaenen, C. 1984. *The French Relationship with the Native Peoples of New France and Acadia*. Ottawa: Indian Affairs.
- Jerret, A. et al. 1997. "Environmental equity in Canada: an empirical investigation into the income distribution of pollution in Ontario" in *Environment and Planning A*, volume 29, pages 1777-1800.
- Jetter, A. 1997. "What is your Wife Trying to Do -- Shut Down the Chemical Industry?: The Housewives of Love Canal -- An interview with Lois Gibbs" in *The Politics of Motherhood: Activist Voices from Left to Right*, ed. Alexis Jetter, Annelise Orleck and Diana Taylor, 28-43. London: University Press of New England.
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- Leuschner, William A. *Forest Regulation, Harvest Scheduling and Planting Techniques*. Toronto: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1990.
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- Nikiforuk, A. 2001. *Saboteurs: Wiebo Ludwig's War Against Big Oil*. Toronto: Macfarlane Walter & Ross.
- North American Commission for Environmental Co-operation (NACEC): <http://www.cec.org>
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