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Spring 2004  
Office: HSS 137

**Race, Poverty, and the Environment  
Urban Studies 515**

**\*ABBREVIATED SYLLABUS: BEING CHANGED FOR SPRING 2005 SEMESTER**

**Segment III Cluster Requirements**

This course is part of GE Segment III clusters *Dynamics of the City and Exploring the Future of Cities*. Students who wish to receive Segment III credit for the course must complete the full cluster requirements and must have earned 60 units by the end of the semester in which they take the course. The course requires a minimum of 10 pages writing and project-based assignments.

**The Course**

This course focuses on understanding the environment, environmental issues, and social movements organized in relation to the environment by examining natural resource utilization, land use planning and policy, and struggles for environmental justice through the critical analyses and lens of race and class. We will focus on four broad themes: First, how complex, multifaceted processes associated with colonialism, urban development, urbanization, and industrialization have led, and continue to lead, to social and environmental problems and inequalities. Second, how social and economic inequalities play a role (both historical and contemporary) in decisions about the location of environmental pollutants and toxins. Third, how pollution and other assaults on the environment affect different groups of people and have a disproportionate negative impact on low-income people and communities and, on people of color and communities of color around the world. Fourth, how people all over the world are struggling for social equity and environmental justice (including most recently at the World Social Forum held in Bombay, India in January 2004). Each class session is framed by assigned readings and a set of questions designed to guide reading and in-class discussion for each session. As you read, take notes and prepare to address these questions in class and, to pose additional questions. The course is divided into three thematic parts. Part I: *Conceptual Issues: Urbanization and Industrialization*; Part II: *Natural Resources: Production and Consumption*; Part III: *Issues, Policies and Solutions: Environmental Justice*.

**Course Requirements and Grading**

Students are expected to attend every class session (consistent attendance is essential to a good course grade); keep up with all assigned readings; be prepared to discuss assigned readings, make an oral presentation in class if time permits, and complete all required assignments on their due dates. You will receive required assignments at least one month before their due dates. The final assignment is due on the last day of class. Late assignments will be docked one full grade for each day late. Incompletes will be granted only under exceptional circumstances. Grades will be based on the following estimated weights, estimated because performance and improvement throughout the course will be considered in grading:

Class attendance/keeping up with assigned readings	20%
First Assignment	20%
Midterm Assignment	25%
Final Assignment	35%

## **Required Reading**

1. Course Reader, compiled by Professor Raquel Pinderhughes for Spring 2004 course.
2. Throughout the semester, students will also be required to consult additional hard copy materials and web-based sources for each session.

## **Approximate Schedule of Course Sessions and Assigned Readings**

### **Part I: Conceptual Issues**

Introduction to the course and to one another

Session 2: Unequal Environmental Protection Discrimination, Motivation, Effects and Context; Discriminatory Land Use/Disproportionate Impacts/Differential Treatment

Session 3: Health Impacts of Environmental Exposures

### **Part II: Natural Resources: Social and Environmental Impacts of Extraction, Production, Distribution, Consumption, and Waste Processes and Practices (Cradle to Grave Analyses)**

Session 5: Social and Environmental Impacts of Global Socio-Economic Activities

Session 5: Social and Environmental Impacts of Mining and Rubber in and outside of the U.S.

Session 6: Social and Environmental Impacts of Fossil Fuels in and outside of the U.S.

Session 7: Social and Environmental Impacts of Timber and of Paper Production in and outside of the U.S.

Session 8: Social and Environmental Impacts of Information Technology (Computers) and of Hazardous Waste in and outside of the U.S.

Session 9: Social and Environmental Impacts of Food Production in and outside of the U.S. (Agriculture, Animal Raising, and Aquaculture). We will focus on water distribution, consumption and waste in this session.

Session 10: Summary Sessions Part I and II: Race, Poverty and the Environment

### **Part III: Issues, Policies and Solutions: Environmental Justice**

Session 11: Student Presentations

Session 12: Summary Sessions

