

Urban and Environmental Policy 101 Environment & Society - Winter 2021

Class Sessions

Tuesday and Thursday 10:15am - 11:40 am PT

Zoom Link: <https://occidental.zoom.us/my/nlambrouoxy>

Office Hours

Nicole Lambrou

Tuesdays, Thursdays 9:15am - 10:15am PT and by appointment

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Course Overview: What is this course about?

The goals of this course are to examine the idea of “environment” and how it relates to the urban context. Through readings, films, class exercises, and discussions, students will:

- Gain insights and critical thinking about cities, urban and environmental issues as well as understand the role of policy, organizing, and social movements in addressing these conditions.
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Synchronous Components

Class Meeting Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:15-11:40 am PT. In-class lectures and discussion.

Office Hours: Faculty will hold weekly office hours via Zoom. Links for office hours sign-ups are above. We strongly encourage you to meet with faculty during the semester

Week 2: Thursday, 01/28: Urban Framing



Week 4: Thursday, 02/11: Current Issues in Housing and Where we Live

“The State of the Nation’s Housing 2019” Harvard Joint Center for Housing Policy. Pp. 1-37
[Skim]

Rebecca Solnit, “Gentrification’s Toll: It’s You or the Bottom Line,” The Guardian, May 13, 2016
<http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2016/may/03/gentrification-climate-change-sierra-club-san-francisco>

Southern California Association of NonProfit Housing (SCANPH).

- o Out of Reach (2018): Los Angeles (1 page)
- o Out of Reach (2018): Los Angeles County (1 page)
- o Housing Needs Report 2018: Los Angeles County (4 pages)

M.J. Aboelata, R. Bennett, E. Yañez, A. Bonilla, & N. Akhavan. Excerpts from Healthy Development Without Displacement: Realizing the Vision of Healthy Communities for All. pgs 9-17. Prevention Institute. 2017

Peter Marcuse. “The Housing Change We Need” Shelterforce. Winter 2008. December 22, 2008.

Week 5: Tuesday, 02/16: Your Neighborhood Walking Exercise

Walking observation exercise. Refer to the prompts for the walk and for the associated readings. This assignment is due on Friday. We will share and discuss these observations in class next Tuesday, time permitting.

Week 5: Thursday, 02/18: Movements for Environmental Justice/Race and the Environment

Luke Cole and Sheila Foster. “Introduction” in From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement. NYU Press. 1991 pgs. 19- 33

Laura Pulido. 2000 “Rethinking Environmental Racism: White Privilege and Urban Development in Southern California” Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 90(1), 2p. 12–40]

Yale Environment 360 Interview with Sacoby Wilson, “Connecting the Dots with Between Environmental Justice and the Coronavirus; <https://e360.yale.edu/features/connecting-the-dots-between-environmental-injustice-and-the-coronavirus>

Week 5: Friday, 02/19: Assignment #1 Due (Your Local Neighborhood Observation Paper)



Week 7: Thursday, 03/04 - The Case of Exide Technologies

Pending Confirmation - Guest speaker: Angelo Logan, co-founder of East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Exide Technologies: A History

<https://timelines.latimes.com/exide-technologies-history/>

Unsettled: The Exide Story (22 minute video); <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BmC1L070eZg>

Mid-Semester Evaluation / Check-In

Access midterm prompt on Moodle!

Week 8: Tuesday, 03/16 - Midterm Due by 5pm

Week 8: Tuesday, 03/16 - Global Trade and the Environment

Andrea Hricko, "Global Trade Comes Home: Community Impacts of Goods Movement" *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 116 (2), Feb, 2008, pp.78-81.

Lydia DePillis, "It's Amazon's World. We Just Live in It". *CNN Business*. Read also the related links in the article. October 4, 2018. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/10/03/tech/amazon-effect-us-economy/index.html>

Week 8: Thursday, 03/18 - Global Trade and the Environment

Karen Robes Meeks. "Los Angeles, Long Beach port truck drivers move nation's goods" *Long Beach Press Telegram* May 16, 2015.

Michael Sainato. "The Ruthless Reality of Amazon's One Day Shipping" *Gizmodo*. June 14, 2019.

Week 9: Tuesday, 03/23 - Plastics and Waste

LAANE, Don't Waste LA: Cleaning Up Waste and Recycling Management and Securing the Benefits, July 2015: <https://laane.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Cleaning-Up-Waste-1.pdf>
And watch this video: <https://www.pbsocial.org/shows/social-insider-rick-reiff/clip/social-insider-rick-reiff-trash-tussle>

Break Free From Plastic at <https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/> (look at)

Week 9: Thursday, 03/25 - Plastics and Waste

Sintana E. Vergara and George Tchobanoglous, "Municipal Solid Waste and the Environment: A Global Perspective," Annual Review of Environment and Resources, Nov. 2012, <http://www.annualreviews.org/doi/full/10.1146/annurev-environ-050511-122532>

Altman, Rebecca; "American petro-topia"; Aeon; March 11, 2015; <https://aeon.co/essays/plastics-run-in-my-family-but-their-inheritance-is-in-us-all>

Week 9: Friday, 03/26 - Forum #3

Week 10: Tuesday, 03/30 - Food Systems

Pending confirmation - Guest Speakers: Sharon Cech, Rosa Romero, UEPI

Haynes-Maslow, L., Stillerman, K. P., & Yates, J. (2016). Fixing food: Fresh solutions from five U.S. cities. Retrieved from the Union of Concerned Scientists website: ucsusa.org/food-agriculture/expand-healthy-foodaccess/fixing-food-fresh-solutions-five-us-cities-2016#.WYEnlIWcE2w

Week 11: Tuesday, 04/06 - Building a Healthy and Just City

Workshop with James Rojas, Founder of PLACE IT! (Ph.D. Urban Planning, MIT) Sponsored by the Remsen Bird Fund.

Susan Fainstein. "Planning and the Just City" (in Marcuse, ed., Searching for the Just City: Debates in Urban Theory and Practice, 2009)

Lerner, Jaime. "How to Build a Sustainable City" New York Times. December 7, 2015

Course and College Policies

Student Support Services

Even in our remote learning environment, the College provides a wide range of

learning strategies, and other study skills, you may schedule an academic coaching meeting by sending an email to academiccoaching@oxy.edu. Share what you'd like to work on, and an academic coach will schedule an appointment with you within a few days.

- ! The **Center for Digital Liberal Arts (CDLA)** offers [library research consultations](#) and [discipline-specific peer tutoring for coursework](#)

Grading Rubric

The goal of the class is for you to become thoughtful, curious, and critical thinkers about the urban environment. The perspectives and skills you gain in the class in the long term matter more than any grade you receive. Grades however, are important indicators of your grasp of the course material. The following is a rubric for understanding what it takes to do well in the class.

Grade F: Student fails to meet the minimum requirements of the course Participation—little to no participation