

UEP 201
Environmental Health and Policy
Urban and Environmental Policy Department
Spring 2020

Dr. Garcia-Gonzales
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Class Location: Johnson Hall 301

Time: Thursdays, 7:15pm - 10:10pm

Office Hours: Thursday, 4-7:00 pm (UEP 103)

Office Phone: 323-259-2991

A virtual meeting can be scheduled by appointment any other day of the week. You should plan on attending office hours at least once, if not more during the semester.

Textbook

Understanding Environmental Health: How We Live in the World; Second Edition by Nancy Maxwell. The textbook is available for purchase at the Oxy bookstore, but you can also find it used at online booksellers since it has been in print for a few years.

Moodle

Please see our class Moodle page for readings that will guide each day's discussion and content. You must read prior to class, as discussions, and your ability to pose questions, inform dialogue, and add in your thoughts, will be an important portion of your class participation grade.

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the environmental factors impacting human and ecological health, including consequences of natural and human-made hazards. Environmental health is a rapidly growing and interdisciplinary field that involves both science and public policy. It is integrated into numerous aspects of our lives, both directly and indirectly. Topics to be covered include food safety, water access and equality, pesticides, air quality, the identification of environmental hazards, the assessment of various risks (including exposure to dangerous chemicals used in toys, food, workplaces, and other activities), and the social and biological causes of disease (epidemiology). Students will gain an understanding of environmental health analytical and scientific methods. We will also explore ways that communities and policy-makers seek to address environmental health challenges. A common thread running through the course will be an examination of how exposure to environmental and health risks vary among different population groups, in the Los Angeles area, in the United States, and around the world. We will also explore the role of science in environmental policy-making, the enforcement of regulations, and the efforts of community groups to influence public policy. (Students are encouraged to enroll in Geology 150, a laboratory science, that explores the spatial and geographic dimensions of environmental health.) Not open to frosh without instructor permission.

Attendance Policy and Participation Definition. Attendance and participation are expected as the work that we do in class is critical to your understanding of the material and you will be

giving feedback to your peers on many occasions. Class discussion and group activities supply the opportunity for you to demonstrate your learning and put it into practice, and allow us the opportunity to ensure that you are grasping the relevant concepts. Since the course is held only once per week, it is critical that you attend every class. Missing more than ½ hour of class will start affecting your participation grade. However, if there is a medical issue or family emergency please let me know; I do not want you coming to class if you are seriously ill, and I recognize that other life issues can sometimes arise unexpectedly. If you must miss class due to an official Oxy event, or due to reasons of faith or conscience, please let me know as early in the semester as possible.

Late Assignment Policy. No late assignments will be accepted without prior discussions and arrangements. In the case that there was a family or medical emergency, due dates may be adjusted on a case-to-case basis.

Title IX. It is important for you to know that all faculty members are mandated reporters of any incidents of sexual misconduct. That means that I cannot keep information about sexual misconduct confidential if you share that information with me. Marianne Frapwell, the Survivor Advocate, can advise you confidentially as can counselors at Emmons Wellness Center and Rev. Susan Young, Director of the Office of Religious & Spiritual Life. You can also contact counselors at the 24/7 Hotline 323-341-4141. Marianne can also help you access other resources on campus and in the local community. You can reach Marianne at 323-259-1359 or survivoradvocate@oxy.edu and her office is in Stewart-Cleland Hall Lower Lounge. The sexual misconduct policy, along with additional resources, can be found at: <http://www.oxy.edu/sexual-respect-title-ix/policies-procedures>.

Language on Special Accommodations/Learning Differences. Students with documented disabilities and learning differences who are registered with Disability Services are required to present their accommodation letter to the instructor at the beginning of each semester or as soon as possible thereafter. Any student who has, or thinks they may have, a physical, learning, or psychological disability may contact Disability Services at (323) 259-2969 to learn about available services and support. More information is available at <http://www.oxy.edu/disability-services>.

Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience. Consistent with Occidental College's commitment to creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that students should be excused from class for reasons of faith and conscience without academic consequence. While it is not feasible to schedule coursework around all days of conviction for a class as a whole, faculty will honor requests from individual students to reschedule coursework, to be absent from classes that conflict with the identified days. Information about this process is available on the ORSL website: <https://www.oxy.edu/office-religious-spiritual-life>

Course Grade Composition

Assignment	Grade Points	Week Assigned	Week Due
Current Event	5%	Ongoing	Assigned first two weeks of class
Participation	10%	Ongoing	--
Homework*	20%	Weekly	M/C problem sets due each Wednesday night 11:59 pm via Moodle; long answer will be printed out and handed into class the following week.
Midterm	20%	Week 7	In Class, March 5 th
Individual Paper	20%	Week 1	Draft – April 2 nd ** Updated to 4/9 Final – April 23 rd
Final Exam	25%	--	TBD (as assigned by the college)

*Reading assignments will be posted online ~2 weeks prior. Homework will be posted on Moodle ~1 week before they are due.

Course Content

Week	Date	Course Content
1	1/23	Understanding Environmental Health
2	1/30	Environmental Toxicology and Epidemiology
3	2/6	Measuring Exposure and Risk; Intro to Infectious Diseases
4	2/13	Measuring Exposure and Risk; Intro to Infectious Diseases
5	2/20	Infectious Diseases
6	2/27	Infectious Diseases Lecture & Midterm Review
7	3/5	In Class Midterm Exam
8	3/12	Spring Break
9	3/19	Extended Spring Break
10	3/26	Air Pollution Lecture
11	4/2	Producing Energy
12	4/9	Climate Change and Environmental Justice Guest Lecturer: Andrea Vidaurre, Policy Analyst of the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice Speaker supported by Remsen Bird Funds
13	4/16	Water Quality, Management, and the Built Environment
14	4/23	TBD
15	4/30	Reading Week
	TBD	Final Exam

Note that the course content schedule is subject to change as necessary.