SPRING 2017

ENVR/PLAN 890-001 Community-Driven Research and Environmental Justice

Wednesdays, 1:25 - 3:20pm in 2304 McGavran Greenberg (2 hrs credit)

Course Instructor  Courtney Woods, Ph.D.  166B Rosenau Hall  courtney.woods@unc.edu  (919)-962-4660

Course Co-Facilitators Danielle Spurlock, Ph.D.  318 New East  dspurloc@email.unc.edu  (919) 962-4757
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Office Hours  By appointment

Text  There is no textbook for the course. All articles and book chapters are listed on the schedule below and will be made available (as pdfs) on the Sakai course site.

Description  In this course, students will learn from community residents who challenge public health scientists to conduct research on environmental and occupational hazards that impact their health. Community-driven research, which requires public health scientists and other researchers to modify approaches used in more traditional research conducted for clients in government and industry. This class introduces concepts and methods in community-driven environmental justice research, presents current research and research needs, and offers opportunities for active involvement in problem-solving in environmental justice research. Methodological topics include public health and social justice, study design and analysis in environmental and occupational health sciences, development of community-driven research questions, community-based participatory research, and preparation of reports that address community and policy needs. Possible topics are industrial livestock production, solid waste and hazardous waste disposal, metal processing/production, and energy production.

Course Objectives

- To expose students to current local topics in environmental justice and give an opportunity to engage with local community leaders
- To facilitate the development of practical and applied research skills
- To foster a critical race and critical class analysis as it relates to public health

Learning Objectives

- To understand the underlying theories and key principles of community-based participatory research
- To examine how structural and systemic factors contribute to unjust distribution of resources (or burdens) and access to participation in decision making processes.
- To learn how to develop research questions that will actively engage community participants and address the concerns of those most directly impacted by the public health issue
- To enhance oral and written communication skills
Graded In-class Participation 20%  Grading Scale:  93-100  H
Assignments:  Annotated Bibliographies 20%  80-92  P
Final Presentation 30%  79-70  L
Final Paper 30%  69 & below F

In-class Discussion (20%): During in-class sessions students are expected to contribute substantively to the discussion. To do this, students should review all required readings prior to class. For the class meetings in which community leaders attend, students are encouraged to bring questions from the readings and also think of questions to ask during/after their presentations.

Annotated Bibliographies (20%): Students should prepare an annotated bibliography for each required reading and any additional readings that they are assigned for a given week. These bibliographies will be extremely useful for you as you are preparing your final presentation and final paper. Your bibliographies can be submitted weekly on Sakai by noon on Wednesdays. Please review the UNC Writing Center resource for assistance.

Final Presentation (25-30min; 30%) and Final Paper (10 pages; 30%): Students will identify one of the topics covered in the class and develop additional research questions (not previously addressed) that may help support and advance the community’s work. More details and examples of past topics will be provided in-class and on Sakai.

Honor Code  Your work in this course is governed by The University of North Carolina Honor Code (http://honor.unc.edu). The Honor Code states "It shall be the responsibility of every student at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and to support the enforcement of the Honor Code, which prohibits lying, cheating or stealing when these actions involve academic processes or University, student, or academic personnel acting in an official capacity." Instructors are required to report apparent violations to the Student Attorney General. In the past Honor Code violations have resulted in students in online course being dismissed from UNC.
**Course Schedule**

**Jan 11 Popular Movements and Community-driven research across disciplines;**


**Jan 18  Concepts, Principles and Methods of CBPR**


For further reading:


**Jan 25  Design, Measurement and Causal Inference in Environmental Exposures**


For further reading:


Feb 1 The EJ Movement in NC and Continuing Struggles with Landfills
Prospective Guest Speakers: Naeema Muhammad, David Caldwell, Ellis Tatum


For further reading:
- Cowell RL. Digging deeper: In Orange and Guilford counties, neighbors fight landfill expansions. Indy Week, July 6, 2011.

Feb 8 Industrial Animal Production: Poultry Incineration & CAFOs with updates on the Title VI and Nuisance Lawsuit
Prospective Guest Speakers: Naeema Muhammad, Elsie Herring, Louis Joyner, Ben Lanier, Devon Hall, Nicholas Woodard or Alonzo Murphy

- …the Rest of the Story: Corporate Hog Farming in NC (video)
- Community health impacts of factory farms: Steve Wing at TEDxManhattan 2013 (video)
- Hardy S. The price of pork. Endeavors, 2012

Feb 15 Research Design


For further reading:


Feb 22  Industrial Contamination: Occupational and Neighborhood Hazards Stories from an Aluminum Smelting Town

Prospective Guest Speakers: Macy Hinson, Valerie Tyson, Richard Leake and Pavithra Vasudevan

- https://nceanj.wordpress.com/issues/badin-lake-clean-up/
- http://yadkinriverkeeper.org/issues/alcoa-pollution

Mar 1  Research Design

- IARC. Monograph 100F-22: OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURES DURING ALUMINIUM PRODUCTION. 2012?
Mar 8 Energy Justice: Coal Ash, Fracking and The Atlantic Coast Pipeline;
Prospective Guest Speakers: Tracy Edwards, John Wagner, Belinda Joyner, Connie Leeper
✔️ http://www.ncwarn.org/coal-ash/
✔️ http://wfae.org/post/3-nc-protests-target-atlantic-coast-pipeline

Project Topics Due; Sign-up for class presentation dates

Mar 10-20 Spring Break

Mar 22 Research Design

Mar 29 CBPR and Legal Action
Prospective Guest Speakers: Elizabeth Haddix, Brent Ducharme
✔️ UNC Civil Rights Law Center: http://blogs.law.unc.edu/civilrights/category/environmental-justice/
✔️ Title VI complaint: http://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/files/North-Carolina-EJ-Network-et-al-Complaint-under-Title-VI.pdf

Apr 5 Objectivity in science and advocacy in public health

Apr 12 Possible field trip; Date and Location TBD
Apr 19 Project Presentations
Apr 26 Project Presentations

Final papers due by email April 28

*Any changes to the syllabus and additional readings will be mentioned in class and posted on Sakai