

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

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

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 | |