

Western University

Geography 4430 Community-based Research on Environment and Health

Winter 2013

Class time: Monday, 1:30-4:30

Instructor: Joy Parr CRC Technology, Culture and Risk

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Calendar Description: A critical review of Canadian research on environment and health, focusing upon dilemmas and responsibilities of conducting research in communities under stress. An opportunity for students to compare findings and re-consider methods for the particular contexts of research amongst vulnerable populations.

Prerequisite(s): Fourth year status at the University and Geography 3250A/B or the former 2250A/B; or, permission of the instructor.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus

- - *to prepare upper year students to conduct independent research in vulnerable communities;*
- - *including background reading in the article and monograph literature on research protocols, ethics approval and interviewing techniques to prepare the researcher and the community to work together effectively to gather information and analyze that information to address meaningful questions. These assignments will include an interview questionnaire and a summary of the goals of the research; and a plan for engaging the community to participate meaningfully in the project with assurances of appropriate reciprocation for community participants*
- - *weekly attendance and preparation of the required readings and assignments including travel with the class to specified research sites*
- - *presentation of a short report on findings including analysis of what additional research and community work would be required to effect a successful relationship with an outcome useful and acceptable to the community participants*

Course Syllabus

- 7 January Community Based Research chapters 1-3
- 14 January CBR 4,5,8
- 21 January
http://www.brown.edu/Departments/Environmental_Studies/QuigleyPowerPoint/QuigleyPowerPoint.html gloss of Brown Quigley slide presentation chosen by student
- 28 January Environmental Justice and Racism in Canada chapters 1,2,3
- 4 February EJRC chapters 4 and 5
- 11 February prep work for research protocols due 25 Feb
- 18 February Reading week
- 25 February Sacrifice Zones chapters 7,10,11
- 4 March Sensing Changes 2,3,6,7
- 11 March site visits
- 25 March site visits
- 8 April paper presentations due April 1 for April 8
- 11 April paper presentations due April 8 for April 11

Course Materials

- Kerry Strand *et. al*, Community-based Research and Higher Education San Francisco : Jossey-Bass, c2003 MIT Press 2005)

Community-based research and higher education : principles and practices -- Scholars Portal E-books

-Andil Gosine and Cheryl Teelucksingh, Environmental Justice and Racism in Canada: An Introduction (Toronto: Emond Montgomery 2008) selected chapters

-Steve Lerner, Sacrifice Zones: The Front Lines of Toxic Chemical Exposure in the United States (Cambridge Mass, MIT Press 2010) selected chapters

-Joy Parr, Sensing Changes: Technology, Environment and the Everyday (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2010) selected chapters

Methods of Evaluation of Assignments

Attendance required, absent with explanation to Instructor

Participation evaluated by observation during class

- *participation 30 includes slide presentation*
- *research protocols 30*
- *research paper 40*

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and a downloadable SMC see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca> under the Medical Documentation heading

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth

10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf> .

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit the site below for more information on mental health resources:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>.

Western's commitment to accessibility

The University of Western Ontario is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>