



**SOS 494/594 Economic Justice, Job Quality, and Sustainability
Spring 2010**

COURSE INFORMATION

Meeting times: Tues 4:40 to 7:30 in GIOS 202

INSTRUCTORS

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Purpose and Goals

Cities pose a particularly strong challenge for a society interested in sustainability. They are places of mixture, exchange, and innovation while also being places of concentrated energy and materials use, pollution, public health issues, social inequalities, violence and crime. To address these problems in a sustainable manner we need to understand the underlying forces propelling urban dynamics and using a sustainability framework, develop a program for action. Interestingly, the approach we take to understand urban dynamics will drive our understanding of particular urban issues and therefore shape our goals and recommendations for addressing those issues. In this course, we will focus on urban justice issues and employ sociological methods in studying them. These methods will illuminate justice issues in particular ways. We will find synergies with sustainable approaches in order to develop a course of action to address urban justice issues. Through the workshop, we hope students develop a deeper understanding of broad social development, inclusion and justice within the general framework of sustainable urban development.

Approach

The Phoenix metropolitan area will be our laboratory for investigating current problems and potential solutions relating to justice and sustainability. Being a workshop, we will be working closely with a variety of stakeholders. Our particular problem focus areas, research and products will be decided by the class. The course will involve a mixture of classroom study on general urban sociology and specific issues pertaining to the Phoenix metro area, along with field research, writing and documentation. The class will break up into teams to focus on different aspects of the problems identified in the class.

The course will investigate and address a particular set of problems – the problems of urban justice – as a sustainability problem which involves components of scale, inter-disciplinary approaches, values, anticipation, contestation and action (Wiek). Additionally, the course incorporates these sustainability concepts into a “Critical Thinking” framework which emphasizes: 1. studying history, 2. uncovering assumptions, 3. an understanding of others’ viewpoints, 4. a critical verification of information, 5. viewing social systems and their future as something we continuously create and control.

Outcomes

Students will become familiar with the following concepts: core urban sociology concepts; stakeholders and power constellations; oppression; isolation; containment; participation; class struggle; environmental justice and environmental racism. Students will understand the agreement and disagreement between these issues and those contained in sustainable urban development paradigms. Students will understand and be able to apply our critical thinking framework to these problems and concepts. Students will contribute to a single final course product communicating our research to a wide audience with the aim of critical reflection and solution proposals.

Course Requirements

Attendance at all class meetings is required, along with meeting with your smaller research group as needed. Assignments will be turned in as a hard-copy in class - problems with printing will not be a valid excuse for lateness. (494: Keep in mind that part of your grade will be from peer reviews of your effort.)

Grading Procedures and Policies (SOS 494)

40%: Short assignments and essays throughout the course.

40%: Final peer evaluations based on group work.

20%: Attendance Grade = $(20 - N^2)/20$, where N = number of classes missed.

Please email Dr. Golub regarding any excused absences (due to official school business or medical or family emergencies)

Grading Procedures and Policies (SOS 594)

50%: Short assignments and essays throughout the course.

50%: Final evaluations of your contributions to group work.

Instructional Resources

All of the required readings are found on the Blackboard site. Sometimes important notices will be emailed directly to you. Please verify that your ASU email is correct.

Optional Background Readings

1. Agyeman, J. et al. (2003). **Just Sustainabilities: Development in an Unequal World**. London: Earthscan (Available in ASU-library)
2. Dobson, A., ed. (1999) **Fairness and Futurity: Essays on Environmental Sustainability and Social Justice**. Oxford.

Ethical Standards for the Course

A paper or report that bears your name is assumed to be your own original work. Team members are jointly responsible for their collective work and for meeting this standard. In courses and in your future professional work, failure to adhere to this rule will have severe consequences. There is a conventional distinction between scholarship and plagiarism. You may use words written by others in their publications or on their web sites, but only with proper attribution. If you are quoting from a published source or from a web site and the quotation is short - up to a sentence or two - place it in quotation marks and cite the source in a footnote or in parentheses. If you employ a longer passage, please indent it and use single spacing, and cite the source in a footnote or in parentheses. There is no shame in citing people's work – in fact, it makes your argument stronger. For questions about these issues, please see Dr. Golub or consult:

<http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity/students>

NOTE: INFORMATION ON THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Workshop Calendar to Spring Break ([BB] = on blackboard)

#	Date	Theory and Discussion	Application	Assignments and Readings Due
1	19-Jan	Introduction and Documentary on Los Angeles Bus Riders' Union	Develop stakeholder network for case study in LA and keep it for future use (will be adapted to our case studies).	none.
2	26-Jan	Introduction to Urban sociology and concepts of justice in the city	Understand urban dynamics through the motivations and resources of different stakeholders.	1. Readings on Urban Sociology [BB], Assignment 1
3	2-Feb	Uneven Urban Development	Understand urban development outcomes of power differences	1. Readings on Uneven Metro Development [BB], Assignment 2
4	9-Feb	The history of development of Phoenix and environmental justice issues.	Understand specific problems confronting populations in Phoenix metro area.	1. Readings on the history of Phoenix and Env Justice [BB], Assignment 3
5	16-Feb	(1) Report from the fields and relate it to theoretical inputs from sessions 1 to 3. (2) Core concepts of sustainability	Begin to see overlap and tension between sustainability goals and issues of justice.	1. Readings on observing the city [BB], Assignment 4 (Field Assignment)
6	23-Feb	Merge core concepts of justice with sustainability	Define the lens for the analysis and strategy (shared analytic framework to be applied to neighborhoods or study areas)	Assignment 5
7	2-Mar	(1) Stakeholder- and power mapping. (2) Initial problem formation (in collaboration / consultation with stakeholders)	Identify stakeholders relevant for our studies; Revisit lenses and apply lenses (throughout the workshop). Students divide into groups	Assignment 6
8	9-Mar	(1) Joint problem and product definition.		

Core Readings (“Advanced” Readings required for 594) (Additional readings may be added)

Urban Sociology Background

1. W.E.B. Du Bois. The Negro Problems of Philadelphia, “The Question of Earning a Living,” and “Color Prejudice” In: Le Gates and Stout, eds. **The City Reader, Second Edition**. London: Routledge, 2000. (6)
2. Wilson, W. J. “From Institutional to Jobless Ghettos” In: Le Gates and Stout, eds. **The City Reader, Fourth Edition**. London: Routledge, 2007. (9)
3. Madanipour, A. “Social Exclusion and Space” In: Le Gates and Stout, eds. **The City Reader, Fourth Edition**. London: Routledge, 2007. (7)
4. Harvey, D. “Contested Cities: Social Process and Spatial Form” In: Le Gates and Stout, eds. **The City Reader, Fourth Edition**. London: Routledge, 2007. (7)
5. Molotch, H. The City as a Growth Machine: Toward a Political Economy of Place. *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 82, No. 2 (Sep., 1976), pp. 309-332
6. ADVANCED: Forester, John. “The Politics of Muddling Through” In: **Planning in the Face of Power**. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989. (11)
7. ADVANCED: Marcuse, Peter. The Enclave, the Citadel, and the Ghetto: What has Changed in the Post-Fordist U.S. City. *Urban Affairs Review*, Nov 1997; vol. 33: pp. 228-264
8. ADVANCED: Weber, R. “Extracting Value from the City: Neoliberalism and Urban Redevelopment” In: Brenner and Theodore, eds. **Spaces of Neoliberalism: Urban Restructuring in North America and Western Europe** Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2002. (19)

Uneven Urban Development

9. Pulido, L. Rethinking Environmental Racism: White Privilege and Urban Development in Southern California. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, 90(1), 12-40. 2000.
10. Sawers and Tabb. Urban Development and Regional Restructuring: An Overview. In: Sawers and Tabb, eds. **Sunbelt/Snowbelt: Urban Development and Regional Restructuring**. New York: Oxford, 1984.
11. Vogel, R. Transient Servitude: The U.S. Guest Worker Program for Exploiting Mexican and Central American Workers. *Monthly Review*, 2007 (web link)
12. Cole and Foster. **From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement**. NYU Press, 2001. (Excerpt on Environmental Racism)

Phoenix History and Environmental Justice

13. Pijawka, Blair, Guhathakurta, Lebednik and Ashur. Environmental Equity in Central Cities: Socioeconomic Dimensions and Planning Strategies. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, Vol. 18, No. 2, 113-123 (1998)
14. Grineski, S., Bolin, B. & Boone, C. Criteria air pollution and marginalized populations: Environmental inequity in metropolitan Phoenix, Arizona, USA. *Social Science Quarterly*, 88(2), 535-554. (2007)
15. Bolin, R., Grineski, S., & Collins, T. The geography of despair: Environmental racism and the making of South Phoenix, Arizona, USA. *Human Ecology Review*, 12(2), 156-168. (2005)
16. Dimas. Conclusion. In: Dimas, P. **Progress and a Mexican-American Community's Struggle for Existence: Phoenix's Golden Gate Barrio**. Lang, 1999.
17. OPTIONAL: Larsen, Larissa, Alameddin, David. The Evolution of Early Phoenix: Valley Business Elite, Land Speculation, and the Emergence of Planning. *Journal of Planning History*, May 2007; vol. 6: pp. 87-113