

Course Description - ENVS 6800/7800 (v.1)
ENVS SPRING 2021 SEMINAR SERIES

Overview

The theme of this spring semester 2021 departmental seminar series is diversity in natural resources and environmental justice. Seminars will be held on Wednesdays from 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m. Due to COVID, the seminars will be held via Zoom.

Graduate students may take this graduate seminar course for 1 credit on a pass/fail basis. This course is cross-listed as ENVS 6800 and ENVS 7800.

Course Objectives

The main objectives of this course are to:

- 1) introduce students to people and research related to the Department of Environment and Society
- 2) provide a forum for students and faculty to interact with each other (which, unfortunately, will be limited due to COVID)

To facilitate interaction among students in the course, a discussion will be opened after each speaker for students interested in commenting on or discussing their presentations.

Students will also have an opportunity to volunteer to introduce a speaker and/or to send a follow-up thank you to them.

The Canvas site for this course contains the following pages:

- a "Course Overview" page (where this syllabus/course schedule and updates will be posted)
- a page for each week's seminar

Two ongoing discussions will be open throughout the semester to facilitate the informal and voluntary exchange of information that often occurs during an in-person class:

- "News of Note" – This discussion page is open for students to contribute titles and links to news stories relevant to this course.
- "More Resources" – This discussion page is open for students to contribute brief descriptions and links to "more resources" relevant to this course.

Instructor

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Weekly Schedule

Week 1 – Jan. 20

Witness an Historic Inauguration in the USA

Seminar will not be held today because it is Inauguration Day. January 20, 2021 will be a historic day in the United States. The first woman and person of both Black and Asian-American ancestry will be inaugurated as the Vice President of the United States. Since the theme of our semester's seminar series is diversity and justice, I want to give you the opportunity to participate in viewing the day's events. When you are older and look back on today, you likely will never remember any organizational information I would tell you about the seminar series. But you will, hopefully, remember the history you were able to witness, and maybe even remember that I did not make you come to class.

Week 2 – Jan. 27

Introductory Session with Discussion *(for enrolled students)*

Plans for Today's Class:

- 1) Introductions of class participants
- 2) Organization of the class
- 3) Discussion of issues you hope to learn more about in relation to "diversity in natural resources and environmental justice"
- 4) Introduction of a semester-long activity

Semester-Long Activity:

A resource from the American Bar Association:

Syllabus: 21-Day Racial Equity Habit-Building Challenge ©

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/labor_law/membership/equal_opportunity/

Week 3 – Feb. 3

GATHER – Film and Discussion

Sponsored by QCNR Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee, USU Inclusion Center, and the Native American Student Council

This week, we will participate in the activity listed below. We will screen the film during the scheduled seminar time. The Thursday evening online panel discussion will be optional, but I highly encourage you to attend if you can!

Information on the film "Gather" and the follow-up discussion is listed here:

The S. J. Quinney College of Natural Resources Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) committee, USU Inclusion Center, and the Native American Student Council welcomes you:

Feb. 1-5, 2021 for a virtual screening of [*Gather \(Links to an external site.\)*](#)

Gather is an intimate portrait of the growing movement amongst Native Americans to reclaim their spiritual, political and cultural identities through food sovereignty, while battling the trauma of centuries of genocide.

Access the film link at your convenience at any point throughout the week:

Film link: <https://illumine.vids.io/videos/4d9cd7b5101ce8c9c4/gather-utah-state> (Links to an external site.)

Password: Gather2021

AND

Thurs., Feb. 4, 2021 from 6 - 7:30 PM MST for an *online panel to discuss the film with local indigenous leaders and food experts!*

Panel of experts and leaders featuring:

Darren Parry, Northwest Band of the Shoshone Nation Tribal Council

Cynthia Wilson, Traditional Foods Program Director, Utah Diné Bikéyah

Reagan Wytsalucy, USU Extension Assistant Professor

Sean Sherman, Author of *The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen*

This is an invaluable opportunity to foster meaningful discussion around Native foodways -- we hope you can attend!

Panel meeting details below.

Topic: Gather film panel

Time: Feb 4, 2021 06:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://usu-edu.zoom.us/j/83821388733?pwd=ZFAydng2WXYvak1XSnFGWQG4SW1EZz09> (Links to an external site.)

Meeting ID: 838 2138 8733

Passcode: Gather

Week 4 – Feb. 10

TBA

Week 5 – Feb. 17

Seminar Title: **Environmental Justice of Urban Natural and Built Environments**

Speaker: **Lauren E. Mullenbach, Ph.D.**

Dr. Lauren Mullenbach is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management at NC State University. Lauren is a scholar of urban environmental justice, focused on parks, green spaces, climate change adaptation, and wellbeing. Her current work assesses community engagement practices in urban park development; identifies strategies to prevent environmental gentrification; documents injustices related to urban built and natural environments; and analyzes equity outcomes from city climate change adaptation strategies. She received her Ph.D. from Penn State in 2020, and her MS and BS from the University of Georgia.

To learn more about Dr. Mullenbach, visit her website at:

<https://www.laurenmullenbach.com/> (Links to an external site.)

Week 6 – February 24

Seminar Title: **Land-Grab Universities**

Speakers: **Tristan Ahtone and Dr. Robert Lee**

Our presenters this week are the authors of an in-depth investigation of the history of land-grant universities that was published in High Country News last year. They will talk about their work and how land-grant universities are responding to what the authors have revealed about their institutional histories. As you all know, Utah State University is a land-grant university.

In preparation for the seminar, I encourage you to review the following material:

The original article:

<https://www.hcn.org/issues/52.4/indigenous-affairs-education-land-grab-universities> (Links to an external site.)

An explanation of how they conducted their research:

<https://www.hcn.org/articles/indigenous-affairs-education-how-we-investigated-the-land-grant-university-system> (Links to an external site.)

Further reading on HCN's land-grants university investigation:

<https://www.hcn.org/articles/indigenous-affairs-further-reading-on-hcns-land-grants-university-investigation> (Links to an external site.)

A December 2020 update on actions by students and faculty:

<https://www.hcn.org/issues/53.1/indigenous-affairs-land-grab-universities-students-and-faculty-urge-deeper-look-at-land-grant-legacy> (Links to an external site.)

Week 7 – March 3

Seminar Title: TBA

Speaker: **Dr. Aby Sene-Harper**

Dr. Aby Sene-Harper's work advances socially just approaches to management of public lands and cultural resources in the US and Sub-Saharan Africa. Her research is situated at the intersections of protected areas, Race and ethnicity, tourism and livelihoods. In the US her work examines how history and culture mediate African American relationships with nature. In Sub-Saharan Africa, her work centers on the potential of integrated conservation and development approaches (e.g. livelihood projects, ecotourism, community-based conservation) to yield positive and sustainable results for community development and protected areas. Dr. Sene-Harper believes that research methods should be informed by the social contexts and questions at hand. She uses both qualitative (e.g. interviews, focus groups, discourse analysis) and quantitative (e.g. survey questionnaires) methods. She is particularly proficient in qualitative methodology to gain a deeper understanding of marginalized communities and their relationships with nature and protected areas in particular. She was awarded the prestigious National Science Foundation-Interdisciplinary Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (NSF-IGERT) fellowship.

To learn more about Dr. Aby Sene-Harper, visit her website at:

<https://www.clemson.edu/cbshs/faculty-staff/profiles/ABYH>

Week 8 – March 10

Seminar Title: TBA

Speaker: **Sergio Avila**

Sergio is a wildlife biologist and conservationist, an immigrant, and a trail runner living in ancestral Tohono O’odham and Pascua Yaqui Lands since 2004. He works as Outdoors Program Coordinator with the Sierra Club, is a member of the City of Tucson’s Commission on Climate, Energy and Sustainability, and a Board member with the Society for Conservation Biology, North America Chapter. He can be found in Twitter and Instagram @Sergio_concolor or running through the Sonoran Desert around Tucson.

To learn more about him, visit:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/other/authors/sergio-avila-0> (Links to an external site.)

<https://www.sierraclub.org/outdoors/2017/11/welcome-sergio> (Links to an external site.)

<https://www.hcn.org/issues/52.2/social-justice-why-a-wildlife-biologist-became-a-social-justice-advocate>

Week 9 – March 17

Seminar Title:

Using Rights of Nature to Better Protect Water Resources in the United States

Speaker: **Robin Kundis Craig**

Robin Kundis Craig is currently a University Distinguished Professor and the James I. Farr Presidential Endowed Professor of Law at the University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA. She is also affiliated faculty of the Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources, and the Environment, the Global Change and Sustainability Center, and the University’s Water Center. Craig specializes in all things water, including the climate change and water; the food-water-energy nexus; water quality and water allocation law; and marine protected areas and marine spatial planning. She is the author, co-author, or editor of 12 books and over 100 law or science articles and book chapters. Craig is an elected member of American Law Institute and the American College of Environmental Lawyers and a member of the IUCN’s World Commission on Environmental Law. Her comments on contemporary marine, water, and climate change issues have been quoted in *National Geographic*, *The Atlantic*, *The New York Times*, *Popular Science*, and many other news outlets. At the University of Utah, she teaches Environmental Law, Water Law, Ocean & Coastal Law, Toxic Torts, Property, and Civil Procedure. Craig will be joining the USC Gould School of Law in Los Angeles in July 2021.

To learn more about her, visit her website at:

https://faculty.utah.edu/u0793211-ROBIN_KUNDIS_CRAIG/research/index.html (Links to an external site.)

Week 10 – March 24

Seminar Title: TBA

Speaker: **Dr. Sarah Klain, Utah State University**

Dr. Klain will talk about work that she and students are doing with the Northwest Band of the Shoshone Nation.

Dr. Sarah Klain is the Andrew J. Senti Assistant Professor of Ecosystem Services. She earned a BA at Reed College in Biology and Economics, then worked as a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Analyst at the non-profit Ecotrust followed by two years of service as a Peace Corps volunteer conducting sea turtle and crocodile conservation in Micronesia. Sarah earned an MSc then PhD in Resources, Environment and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia. Her research has advanced methods for incorporating social and cultural values into ecosystem service assessments to inform environmental management. She has also conducted various studies on offshore wind farms, ranging from factors that shape perceptions of environmental risk, community engagement adjacent to proposed farms, and willingness to pay for offshore wind farms that are ecologically regenerative. Her current research focuses on ways to make renewable energy landscapes more socially acceptable and better for biodiversity. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Society for Conservation Biology, North America. Sarah is also an Associate Editor for the journal *Ecosystems and People*, formerly known as the *International Journal of Biodiversity Science, Ecosystem Services & Management*.

To learn more about her, visit her website at:

https://qcnr.usu.edu/directory/klain_sarah

Week 11 – March 31

Seminar Title: TBA

Speaker: **Dr. Jill Lindsey Harrison**

Dr. Harrison will talk about her book, *From the Inside Out: The Fight for Environmental Justice within Government Agencies* (2019, MIT Press).

Dr. Jill Lindsey Harrison (PhD, University of California at Santa Cruz, 2006) is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her research focuses on environmental sociology, sociology of agriculture and food systems, environmental justice, and political theories of justice, with a regional emphasis on the United States. She has used her research on political conflict over agricultural pesticide poisonings in California, recent escalations in immigration enforcement in rural Wisconsin, and government agencies' environmental justice efforts to help identify and

explain the persistence of environmental inequalities and workplace inequalities in the United States today. In addition to numerous articles and chapters, she published *Pesticide Drift and the Pursuit of Environmental Justice* (MIT Press, 2011), which won book awards from the Rural Sociological Society and the Association of Humanist Sociology, and *From the Inside Out: The Fight for Environmental Justice within Government Agencies* (MIT Press, 2019), which received Honorable Mention for the 2020 Allan Schnaiberg Outstanding Publication Award from the American Sociological Association's Section on Environmental Sociology.

To learn more about her, visit her website at:

<https://www.colorado.edu/sociology/jill-lindsey-harrison>

Week 12 – April 7

TBA

Week 13 - April 14

TBA

Week 14 – April 21

TBA

Note: The semester ends on Tuesday, April 27