

Community Conditions and Environmental Racism across the United States

Course Description

How is it that certain groups of people do not have access to basic resources, or are systematically burdened with pollution or environmental hazards to a greater extent than other groups? This training will examine the theme of environmental racism with a strong focus on the experiences of minorities. This training examines issues of environmental quality and social justice. It starts with the premise that all people have a right to live in a clean environment free from hazardous pollution or contamination, and to the natural resources necessary to sustain health and livelihood. Participants will explore why, and through what social, political, and economic process, some people are denied this basic right. What are the social relations of production and power that contribute to these outcomes? What can be done?

Objectives

- Understand the history and principles of the modern environmental justice movement.
- Discuss theories regarding the production of environmental inequalities and environmental racism.
- Analyze the diverse forces that contribute to systemic environmental inequalities as well as specific cases of environmental inequality and environmental injustice at the local and global scale.
- Examine how the creation of environmental and social inequalities has been, and remains, a central component of the development of modern society and its political and economic systems.
- Explore processes of environmental inequality and racism and associated struggles for justice.



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