

Rutgers DSW Program Syllabus

Module Title: Environmental Justice in Social

Work Instructor:

Residency:

Date:

Module Description: This module will review the various meanings of environmental justice, examine three perspectives that explain the relationships people have with the environment, and analyze ways social workers can promote environmental justice. This module aims to ensure the students' understanding of "Person-in-Environment" is inclusive of the physical environment.

Module Objectives:

1. Create personal and professional working definitions of environmental justice
2. Identify student's relationship with the environment
3. Evaluate the similarities and differences of the perspectives/theories of application
4. Discuss social workers' responsibilities to advance environmental justice.
5. Identify opportunities to promote environmental justice.

Required Readings:

1. Nesmith, A., & Smyth, N. (2015). Environmental justice and social work education: Social workers' professional perspectives. *Social Work Education*, 34(5), 484-501. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02615479.2015.1063600>
2. Madawi, A. (2020, January 29). Climate breakdown 'is increasing violence against women'. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/jan/29/climate-breakdown-is-increasing-violence-against-women>
3. Mason, L. R., Melton, C. C., Gray, D., & Swallow, A. L. (2022). Climate Change, Social Work, and the Transition Away from Fossil Fuels: A Scoping Review. *Sustainability*, 14(12), 7086. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14127086>
4. Redvers, N., Yellow Bird, M., Quinn, D., Yunkaporta, T., & Arabena, K. (2020). Molecular decolonization: an indigenous microcosm perspective of planetary health. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 17(12), 4586. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17124586>

Reading Recommendations:

1. Dominelli, L. (2013). *Green social work*. John Wiley and Sons, Incorporated.
2. Forbes, R. & Smith, K. (Eds.). (2023). *Ecosocial Work Environmental Practice and Advocacy*. NASW Press.
3. Gray, M., Coates, J., Bird, M. Y., & Hetherington, T. (Eds.). (2016). *Decolonizing social work*. Routledge.
4. Kimmerer, R. (2013). *Braiding sweetgrass: Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and the teachings of plants*. Milkweed editions. <https://bit.ly/32nehgI>
5. Spett, D. (2023). Towards Ethical and Competent Equine-Assisted Social Work: A Qualitative Study. *Smith College Studies in Social Work*, 1-21. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00377317.2023.2216275>

Resources:

- Climate Justice Alliance - <https://climatejusticealliance.org/>
- CSWE Curricular Guide for Environmental Justice - <https://www.cswe.org/products/curricular-guide-for-environmental-justice/>
- EPA Mapper - <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>
- Extinction Rebellion - <https://rebellion.global/>
- IFSW Bookstore - <https://www.ifsw.org/product-category/books/>
- NJ Environmental Digital Library - https://njedl.rutgers.edu/environmental_organizations

Module Assignment:

Due: via Canvas

A **Mind Map** is a visual depiction of a concept using words and images to organize thoughts. Students will create an image that displays their concept and understanding of ***environmental justice*** beginning with at least 5 images/words/concepts, and then building 5-7 sub-branches off of and related to those initial images/words/concepts. To see a sample mind map, please visit - <https://mindmapsunleashed.com/10-really-cool-mind-mapping-examples-you-will-learn-from>

To create your mind map, you may:

- Draw your mind map by hand
- Use a program such as, but not limited to:
 - Google Jam Board
 - PowerPoint (note it would only be one slide)

For the summary of the mind map, students should answer the following questions:

- How did you feel and what were your reactions when completing the mind map? Was it difficult or easy? Why?
- Describe any noteworthy aspects of your process as you completed the mind map? (Such as experiences you had or insights you gained.)
- Identify and explain ideas that were influenced or informed by the readings

The summary should be no more than two pages, double-space with one-inch margins, and all other APA format requirements.