

**Vermont Law School
Environmental Justice (EJU 5446)
Summer 2025**

GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION

Faculty Contact Information

Veronica Eady

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(857) 218-2188

Office hours: By appointment made through email.

Course Information: ENV5446.01 (Environmental Justice)

Meetings: June 16 - 18 and June 23 - 26, 1 pm - 4:30 pm ET

Location:

Credit Hours: 2

Course Description:

Introduction to the field of environmental justice. We will cover the origins and history of the Environmental Justice movement; Environmental Justice's distinctive approach to lawyering, with an emphasis on building power rather than winning cases; and an introduction to important topics in environmental justice, including siting of locally unwanted land uses; urban planning; climate change; the diversity, equity, and inclusion and recent federal policy changes.

Textbooks and Other Course Materials

Environmental Justice: Law, Policy and Regulation, 3e, Villa, et al.
(available as a textbook or kindle)

Timely and relevant supplemental readings, such as academic or news articles, provided in advance of class.

Assessment Plan/Grading Rubric:

Class Participation: 25%

Research Paper: 75%

Class Participation: Students are expected to come to class having read and considered the assigned readings. Students are further expected to actively participate in the group discussions that form the classroom component of this course. Multiple and/or unexcused absences will negatively affect your grade (see below).

Research Paper: The research paper should be a minimum of ten pages, double-spaced, including footnotes. Students may develop topics based on the readings and class discussions, or they may come up with one of their own with the approval of the instructor. The research paper should be a combination of original research and theory and a critique of the relevant readings covered during class.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

Students must prepare for and attend class regularly. Your absence during two or more classes during the course will result in an automatic decrease by one grade (a B will become a B-, for example). Absent an emergency, you must notify Professor Eady by e-mail in advance of missing a class. Attendance during the first class is mandatory.

ASSIGNMENTS

6/16/25 Class 1: Coleman, "Environmental Groups' Greatest Obstacle May Not be Republican Opposition," Politico, February 5, 2021
Villa, et al: Chapter 1: An Introduction to Environmental Justice

6/17/25 Class 2: Living on Earth, "EPA Abandons Environmental Justice," March 21, 2025
Villa, et al: Chapter 2: Theories of Causation; Chapter 3: Risk and Health

6/18/25 Class 3: Woodward, "Trump is gutting civil rights enforcement — and blocking a key tool against discrimination," May 10, 2025
Villa, et al: Chapter 4: Constitutional and Civil Rights Claims; Chapter 5: Standard Setting

6/23/25 Class 4: Villa, et al: Chapter 6: Permitting; Chapter 7: Public Enforcement

6/24/25 Class 5: Villa, et al: Chapter 9: Environmental Justice in Indian Country; Chapter 10: Governmental Initiatives to Address EJ

6/25/25 Class 6: Villa, et al: Chapter 11: Land Use Planning; Chapter 14: Climate Justice.

6/26/25 Class 7: Villa, et al: Chapter 12: Information Disclosure and Environmental Review; Chapter 13: Citizen Enforcement and Common Law Remedies