

# Harvard University

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Introduction to Environmental Justice  
<http://courses.dce.harvard.edu/~envre145/>

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Stephen Curwood  
Executive Director  
Living On Earth  
Somerville, MA

Dear Steve,

We have recently been given approval to teach a new course this next semester through the Harvard Extension School, entitled “*Introduction to Environmental Justice*,” and we are finalizing plans for the class sessions this semester. We would be very grateful indeed if you would be willing to come to our class for an evening to explain what you are engaged in and what your understanding is of the major issues in the field of environmental justice. In particular, because of your extensive coverage of events and incidents surrounding hurricane Katrina, we would be particularly grateful if you could share your perspectives on how all the events surrounding Katrina and subsequent recovery reveal something to this country about deep seated patterns of environmental injustice.

We will be meeting in the Spring Semester on Tuesday evenings from 7:35 – 9:35 pm in the Maxwell-Dworkin building (room G 125) on the Harvard Square campus (room G 125). We have arranged to have the Harvard Extension School video-tape our class sessions, and these sessions will be “streamed” over the Internet to those who take the course through “distance education.” As a result, through the video streaming, the course reaches out to a wide variety and range of students who could not otherwise attend classes here locally. This facility allows the individuals who come to speak in the course a chance to get their research, ideas and insights to a strategic audience that is potentially quite large.

The Syllabus for the course is posted online through Harvard’s Extension School under the course listing: [ENVR E145](#) . The schedule is visible by clicking in the left-hand column under the title: “Course Calendar - Spring 2007.” On the website, each week’s assignments and supporting web-based material will be provided for students under the rubric of “Week 1,” “Week 2,” etc. A full listing of the syllabus is available as a [PDF document](#) from the web page as well.

The subject you could address is entirely up to you. It can reflect your own research to date, or look prospectively at the kind of research and challenges for action that you

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feel might be most appropriate for the broader environmental justice movement to undertake in the future. Further, we could arrange your evening with our students either as a straightforward lecture or as a presentation with questions and answers or as a panel discussion of some sort. If you feel you can join us for a Tuesday evening in the Spring, we would be glad to talk with you more precisely about how you might best want to structure the evening concerned and what particular dates would best suit your schedule.

We would very much like to have you join us for a session of this course and would look forward to an evening of your talking with our students. Please let us know if you think this would be something you would like to do. You can reach us by e-mail at [james\\_hoyte@harvard.edu](mailto:james_hoyte@harvard.edu) or [tweiskel@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:tweiskel@fas.harvard.edu).

Thank you for your kind consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

James Hoyte  
& Timothy C. Weiskel  
[Introduction to Environmental Justice](#)