

Environmental Justice Minor

The Environmental Justice minor educates students about the need to provide for human well-being while conserving the natural resources and ecological balance necessary to meet the needs of current and future generations. Using an interdisciplinary framework, the minor introduces students to the interdependent problems of sustainability such as climate change, social, economic and environmental inequalities, pollution and public health concerns that are affecting our city, society, and planet today. Students of the minor will learn the importance of working towards sustainable development and the equitable distribution of environmental benefits and harms that constitutes environmental justice. Through the minor's interdisciplinary approach, students will develop an understanding of the intricate networks that link together people, cultures, societies, and environments. In the process, they will build the critical thinking and communication skills necessary to share their understanding of the complexities of sustainability, to enter the increasing number of careers and graduate programs requiring these multidisciplinary skills, and to become more effective contributors to society.

Learning Outcomes. Students will:

- Understand the basic concepts, issues, and debates surrounding sustainability, sustainable development, and environmental justice.
- Understand how different academic disciplines approach and contribute knowledge to topics related to Sustainability and Environmental Justice, such as environmental political and economic initiatives, social movements, chemical processes, urban planning, artistic works, and ethical considerations of policies and behaviors.
- Apply such analytical skills as qualitative and quantitative reasoning and critical thinking to interpret a broad array of problems and conditions effecting the environment and human habitats.
- Think critically about sustainability and environmental justice issues in society, such as global climate change, pollution, environmental racism, the scarcity of natural resources, and public health concerns resulting from environmental conditions.
- Analyze best practices and policies for sustainability, reflect on how to use them in their everyday lives, and understand their implications for various communities and groups (racial, ethnic, national, class, gender, etc.).

Rationale. The world around us seems to be changing faster and faster, and in ways that are becoming more and more unpredictable and difficult to understand. Among the many phenomena that people in academia, government, the health industry, private business, and other fields are trying to make sense

of is our environment and the limits of sustainability. The majority of scientists are attributing strange weather patterns to global warming, while other researchers are identifying how social, political, and economic inequalities are leading to disparities in such environmental matters as water and air quality. Some citizens are forming social movements to correct injustices occurring in society and to create “sustainable” ways of living, while others investigate environmental crimes and search for alternative sources of energy. Through an approach that uses multiple disciplines, the Sustainability and Environmental Justice minor aims to provide students with an understanding of these and other important issues affecting our world. Since issues of sustainability and environmental problems are increasingly becoming a part of our daily lives, the legal and health industries, law enforcement, government, and the non-profit and private sectors are all restructuring and expanding to address these concerns. The minor in Sustainability and Environmental Justice will complement and enrich students’ studies at the College by informing them about the diverse frameworks employed to discuss and analyze these problems, and, thus better prepare them for a world in which changing environment is a fundamental aspect of everyday life.

Credits required. 18

Minor coordinators. Professors Sandra Swenson, (212-237-8820, sswenson@jjay.cuny.edu) and Kate Schowe Good (kgood@jjay.cuny.edu), Department of Sciences

Requirements. Students take two required courses and four elective courses to complete the minor. A maximum of two courses can overlap with a student’s major, other minors or programs.

Part One. Required Courses

<u>EJS 200</u>	Earth Justice: Intro to Sustainability Studies	3
<u>EJS 300</u>	Environmental Justice	3

SUS 200 Introduction to Sustainability Studies is now **EJS 200** Earth Justice: Intro to Sustainability Studies. **SUS 300** Environmental Justice is now **EJS 300**.

Subtotal: 6

Part Two. Electives

Select four

<u>AFR 227</u>	Community-based Approaches to Justice	3
<u>AFR 317</u>	Environmental Racism	3
<u>ART 122</u>	Eco Art and Design	3
<u>CJBA 367</u>	Wildlife Crime: Issues and Prevention	3
<u>ECO 231</u>	Global Economic Development and Crime	3
<u>ECO 260</u>	Environmental Economics, Regulation and Policy	3
<u>ECO 333</u>	Sustainability: Preserving the Earth as Human Habitat	3
<u>EJS 240</u>	Environmental Crime	3
<u>EJS 277</u>	Introduction to Experiential Learning: Environmental Justice	3
<u>EJS 280</u>	Selected Topics in Sustainability and Environmental Justice	3
<u>ICJ 101</u>	Introduction to International Criminal Justice	3
<u>ISP 110</u>	When Nature Roars: Global Catastrophe & Responsibility	3
<u>LIT 348</u>	Native American Literature	3
<u>LIT 366</u>	Writing Nature: Literature and Ecology	3
<u>PHI 214</u>	Environmental Ethics	3
<u>SCI 112</u>	Environmental Science: A Focus on Sustainability	3
<u>SCI 222</u>	Ecology of the Five Boroughs	3
<u>SOC 252</u>	Environmental Sociology	3
<u>SOC 364</u>	Food Justice	3

SUS 240 Environmental Crime is now **EJS 240**. **SUS 280** Selected Topics in Sustainability and Environmental Justice is now **EJS 280**.

Subtotal: 12

TOTAL CREDIT HOURS: 18