

Sociology 290

The Politics of Nuclear Power, Energy Sovereignty, and Indigenous Knowledge: The Fukushima Nuclear Meltdown and Its Impact on Nuclear Programs in Asia, the U.S., Europe, the Middle East, and Beyond

Winter 2013

Course Description

Vandana Shiva, prominent Indian environmental activist and quantum physicist, once declared that “nuclear is the dirtiest energy of all.” as she warns about the potential environmental devastation of the unfettered development of atomic arsenals and resulting radioactive pollution. Using last year’s Fukushima nuclear disaster as an intellectual launching pad, this class is designed to energize scholarly debates and discussions on the politics of energy and broader socio-political and environmental ramifications of Japan’s nuclear meltdown – namely, its impact on the future of nuclear energy programs in Asia, the Middle East, Europe, the U.S. and the Global South. We will look at a number of important issues facing the state of the world’s nuclear future, which includes: past disasters and the U.S. Government’s atomic cover-up of its nuclear experiments; the role of media on safety debates and the development of atomic armament, including depleted uranium (DU) ammunitions and bunker buster bombs; state-corporate predations of indigenous nations for uranium mining, nuclear testing, and waste dumping; the efficacy of pacifist strategies adopted by anti-nuclear grassroots movements; and finally, a broader discussion of social-political arrangements and potential political strategies for best achieving regional energy sovereignty and sustainability.

This class specifically applies a critical indigenist perspective (i.e., the Fourth World Approach coined by George Manuel and later adopted by the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and a method of historical genealogy (devised by Nietzsche and later exploited by Foucault) in order to trace out the evolution of the state’s energy programs, including governmental efforts to propagate the peaceful use of nuclear power, develop proprietary intellectual property (IP) rights for nuclear technologies, global market creation for nuclear industries, and concomitant state responses to emergent anti-statist and ecological oppositions.

Instructor

Sociology & Legal Studies Professor Hiroshi Fukurai (hfukurai@ucsc.edu):
office hours on Tuesday 2-5 p.m. and/or an appointment.

Class Meeting

The class meets on Wednesday 9-12 p.m. at College Eight, Room 301 (another meeting time may be possible, depending upon students’ request and consensus).

Evaluations:

(1) Weekly In-Class Presentation of Our Reading

- *Facilitation:* In the first week, each seminar participant may sign up to be responsible for organizing and leading a seminar discussion based on a close reading of the articles/book for one week; s/he can also bring into class a relevant news story, media/video clip, film or TV excerpt, photos/songs/poems, a guest appearance in

person or via a skype, etc., which is relevant to the reading topics for that day so that we can make application of the readings and concepts to contemporary events and politics, and consider the utility (or lack thereof) of the ideas put forth by various authors.

- Please remember that the success of a seminar depends on active participation and collectively developed discourse, and keeping up with the weekly reading is the most important requirement of this topical course. Come to class prepared to share your ideas and/or cogent perspective on the material by exploring the equity and adequacy of particular themes and arguments, evaluating the logic or a theory or a concept, and reflecting on the readings' implications for work of your own.
- *Participation*: Every student is expected to present a reaction/reading paper (200-400 word) of assigned paper in class and show how they are relate to themes of the week's topic as well as other assigned readings (5-15 min each, based on the facilitator's discretion). It would be most ideal if you can relate the readings to issues that you are interested in exploring in your individual research and/or final paper.
- In order to facilitate discussions, your critical reaction/reading paper to be posted to ecommons by 12 noon Tuesday every week. To post your paper, please log onto our ecommons and submit your paper using Communication tool (on the left side of the screen) called Discussion Forums and upload your file for everyone to share.
 - You can present it orally. You can also distribute copies of your synopsis and explain your arguments accordingly. Or you can do so in an imaginative way as it suits your objectives.

Final Research Paper

- (1) You must identify a key subject matter related to some aspects of energy programs, environmental effects, policy, movements, and strategies for social change. Students may choose any relevant topic covered in class and develop it into a full paper.
- (2) The concept paper (3 page max, excluding a cover sheet and a bibliography) is due on the 5th week, and the final paper (20 page max) is due on the final's week.

Oral Presentation of Your Research Paper:

- (1) The later part of this quarter (9th & 10th week) will be reserved for students to present findings on their research topic. The presentation evaluation will be based on how well s/he speaks about their research objectives and presents findings and arguments in an effective and engaging fashion.

Use of Wikileaks Document for Research Paper:

- In 2010, Wikileaks documents revealed more than a quarter million cables sent from 274 U.S. embassies strategically located around the globe to the U.S. State Department in Washington D.C. The cables contained information from December 28, 1966 to February 28, 2010. Critical analysis of its documents has already been felt around the globe, including so called "the Arab Spring" in 2010 which was instigated by Wikileaks' revelations of Tunisian elites' deep-rooted corruptions and media-constructed mass deceptions. Critical analysis of its contents has also exposed multitudes of ethically and legally questionable U.S. operations abroad, such as secret information gatherings on foreign dignitaries, reportings by surrogate agencies and

intelligence assets on the emergence of democratic and socialist movements in the global south and elsewhere, investigative summaries of specific anti-U.S. protests and activities in individual states or regions, and clandestine plots to neutralize foreign targets, among many others.

- Students are free to access, examine, and investigate the content of the wikileaks document for the final paper. The 1.7 GB document will be made available for students' use. Brief instructions on how to extract information from the document are given in class.

Textbook (Please obtain through Amazon or other internet outlets):

- WARD CHURCHILL, DERRICK JENSEN, & MIKE RYAN, PACIFISM AS PATHOLOGY: REFLECTION ON THE ROLE OF ARMED STRUGGLES IN NORTH AMERICA (2007)
- GREG MITCHELL, ATOMIC COVER-UP: TWO U.S. SOLDIERS, HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI AND THE GREATEST MOVIE NEVER MADE (2012)
- KARI NORGAARD, LIVING IN DENIAL: CLIMATE CHANGE, EMOTIONS AND EVERYDAY LIFE (2011).
- EILEEN WELSON, THE PLUTONIUM FILES: AMERICA'S SECRET MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS IN THE COLD WAR (1999)
- The weekly reading will be posted on eCommons every week.

Course Contents: Some weeks will show short videos, photos, and/or pictures to gain deeper understandings of weekly subjects. New reading materials, videos, or photo magazines may be added, depending upon the topics covered in individual weeks.

Additional information enlisted in Supplement is not part of weekly reading, though these materials may provide additional information for students' research for the final paper.

- **Week 1: Introduction on the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster, Toiletry & Civilization, Colonialism, and Enviro-Destruction**
 - Hiroshi Fukurai, *Disaster Memories and Other Thoughts on the Fukushima Nuclear Reactors, the Military Industrial Complex, the Ainu, and National Sovereignty*, in MY POSTWAR LIFE (Elizabeth McKenzie ed., 2012)
 - Barbara Penner, *We Shall Deal Here With Humble Things: Toilet, Sanitation, & the Civilization*, THE DESIGN OBSERVER GROUP, (Nov. 13, 2012).
 - Derrick Jensen, *Preface* in DEEP GREEN RESISTANCE (eds. By Arc McBay, Lierre Keith, & Derrick Jensen) (2011) (preface can be accessed through Amazon.com)
 - Hiroshi Fukurai, *Nuclear Power and Media in Japan*, KPFA INTERVIEW (Apr. 21, 2011 – first 14 minutes)

We Watch the Following Video Together in Class for the First Week:

- Vandana Shiva, *Transcend: Nuclear and Coal Energy*, DEMOCRACYNOW!, 2011 (8 min video)
- Frank Lopez, *It's the End of the World as We Know it and I Feel Fine*, Amateur Riot, Submedia.tv, 2011 (14 minute video)

Supplement:

- WINONA LADUKE, WILD RICE: MAPS, GENES, AND PATENTS (2001).
 - United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (2007)
 - Hiroshi Fukurai, *The Future of Nuclear Power in East Asia: Introduction: The Fukushima Dai-Ichi Nuclear Disaster and the Future of Nuclear Energy Programs in Japan and East Asia*, 21 PAC. RIM L & POL'Y J. 427 (2012).
- **Week 2: History of Energy & Colonialism – “Europe” as a Colonial Construction, the “Nation” vs. the “State,” and History of Energy and State Predations**
 - Vaclav Smil, *World History and Energy*, in *Encyclopedia of Energy*, C. Cleveland, ed., Vol.6, pp.549-561 (2004).
 - Martin Peder Maarjerg, *The Global Nuclear Energy Partnership: Is the Cure Worse than the Disease?* 16 U. BALT. J. ENVTL. L. 127 (2009)
 - Brett Buchheit, *The Economics of Alternative Energy: Decisions Following the IPCC's Report on Climate Change*, 38 TEX. ENVTL. L.J. 73 (2008) (**read only “D. Nuclear Power” and “E: Solar Power,” p.87 – 97**)
 - Anthony J. Hall, Preface, in *The American Empire and the Fourth World* (2003)
 - Richard Griggs, *The Meaning of “Nation” and “State” in the Fourth World*, in C. CWIS OCCASIONAL PAPER #18 (1992).
 - George Manuel, *The Fourth World, and the Making of a New Middle Ground*, in *THE AMERICAN EMPIRE AND THE FOURTH WORLD*, ed., by Anthony J. Hall (2003).

Supplement:

- Vaclav Smil, [Energy at the Crossroads, Notes for Presentation at Global Science Forum Conference on Scientific Challenges for Energy Research](#) (2006).
 - Vaclav Smil, *Science, Energy, Ethics, and Civilization*, in *VISIONS OF DISCOVERY: NEW LIGHT ON PHYSICS, COSMOLOGY, AND CONSCIOUSNESS* (R. Y. Chiao et al. eds., 2010)
 - Brad Werner, “Is Earth Fucked? (Dec. 7, 2012)
 - Energy Sources: History, Selection, and Transitions, ND Agricultural Experiment Station, North Dakota State University (last visited in Dec. 2012).
 - U.S. Energy Information Administration: Total Energy, <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/index.cfm>
 - History of Energy Consumption in the United States: 1775-2009, <http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=10>
 - UCSC Newsletter, Sustainable Energy Research (Community-based Microgrids)
- **Week 3: National Sacrifice Areas – Indigenous Lands, Colonialism, & Globalization**
 - RUSSELL J. DALTON, ET AL., *CRITICAL MASSES: CITIZENS, NUCLEAR WEAPONS PRODUCTION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION IN THE UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA* (1999)
 - Jessica Barkas, *Testing the Bomb: Desperate Impacts on Indigenous People in the American West, the Marshall Islands, and in Kazakhstan*, 13 U. BALT. J. ENVTL. L. 29 (2005).

- Christina M. Heischmidt, *China's Dumping Ground: Genocide Through Nuclear Ecocide in Tibet*, 18 PENN ST. ENVTL. L. REV 213 (2010)
- Anne Miers Kammer, *Soldiers of Semipalatinsk: Seeking a Theory and Forum for Legal Remedy*, 5 SAN DIEGO INT'L L.J. 353 (2004)

Supplement:

- Jim Lynch and Karen Dorn Steele, *Wasteland: Is Anybody Watching? Operating with Little Oversight in a Secretive Culture, Hanford's Private Contractors Gets Millions of Taxpayer Dollars and Face no Financial Risk*, *Spokesman-Review*, Nov. 14, 1994.
- Radiation Exposure from 50 Years of Uranium Mining Continues to Affect Spokane Indian Reservation ([DemocracyNow!](#)), Apr. 21, 2009 (6 min)
- The Navajo Nation's Ongoing Battle Against Uranium Mining ([DemocracyNow!](#)), Mar. 2, 2006 (16 min).
- *Energy Exploitation and the Ban on Uranium Mining in Navajo Country* ([DemocracyNow!](#)), May. 31, 2005 (begins at 45th min)
- *As the House of Representatives Votes to Turn Yucca Mountain into a Nuclear Waste Storage Site, a Look at the History, Science, and Politics Beyond the Vote* ([DemocracyNow!](#)), May 9, 2002 (17 min).
- WINONA LADUKE, *THE MILITARIZATION OF INDIAN COUNTY* (2011)
- **Week 4: The American Role in Fukushima Disaster – The Atoms for Peace Program, CIA Clandestine Psychological Warfare Operations Across the Globe, & Hegemony of Nuclear Safety Myths**
 - Greg Mitchell, *Atomic Cover-up* (2012)
 - Hiroshi Fukurai, *America's Role in the Japanese Disaster: The CIA & Psychological Warfare Strategies, Fukushima Nuclear Disaster in THE FUKUSHIMA NUCLEAR DISASTER & HISTORY OF NUCLEAR ENERGY* (2013)
 - Anthony J. Hall, *From Hiroshima to Fukushima, 1945-2011*, *VT: Military & Foreign Affairs Journal*, March 28, 2011.
 - Lisa M. Schenck and Robert A. Youmans, *From Start to Finish: A Historical Review of Nuclear Arms Control Treaties and Starting Over with the New Start*, 20 CARDOZO J. INT'L & COMP. L. 399 (2012).
 - Marcus Eyth, *The CIA and Covert Operations: To Disclose or Not to Disclose – That is the Question*, 18 BYU J. PUB. L. 45 (2002).

Supplement:

- [BBC, Secrets of the CIA](#) (92 min)
- FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE, *ON THE GENEALOGY OF MORALS* (2009).

Brief Student Presentation & Discussion (10-15 min each)

- Students' Research Topic and Investigative Trajectories
- **Week 5: "Hybrid Human Experiment" of Atom Bomb Program – University of California, Medical Doctors, and Effects of Radiation Beyond Hiroshima & Nagasaki**
 - Eileen Welsome, *The Plutonium Files: America's Secret Medical Experiments in the Cold War* (1999) (selected chapters)
 - Susan E. Lederer, *Health Legacies: Militarization, Health and Society – Going for the Burn: Medical Preparedness in Early Cold War*, 30 J. Med. &

- Ethics 48 (2011).
- Jennifer Washburn, *Big Oil Goes to College: An Analysis of 10 Research Collaboration Contracts between Leading Energy Companies and Major U.S. Universities*, Oct. 2010.
- Efthimios Parasidis, *Human Enhancement and Experimental Research in Military*, 44 CONN. L. REV. 1117 (2012).
- Robert Jay Lifton, *THE NAZI DOCTORS: MEDICAL KILLING AND THE PSYCHOLOGY OF GENOCIDE* (2000) (selected chapters)

Supplement:

- *Why is Oil giant BP Helping Develop California Schools' Environmental Curriculum?* DEMOCRACYNOW! Sep. 10, 2010.
- Jennifer Washburn, University, Inc.: The Corporate Corruption of Higher Education (2005).
- The Office of Health, Safety and Security: Human Radiation Experiments, <http://www.hss.energy.gov/HealthSafety/ohre/index.html>

• **Week 6: No Class**

• **Week 7: What is Energy Sovereignty? Is it Achievable? Alien Tort Claims Act & Remedies?**

- Maggie Ellinger-Locke, *Food Sovereignty is a Gendered Issue*, 18 BUFF. ENV'T'L L.J. 157 (2010-2011)
- *Position Paper on Energy Sovereignty*, The Eighth Conference of Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, New Delhi, Oct. 2002.
- Elise Catera, *Note: ACTA: Closing the Gap in Corporate Liability for Environmental War Crime* 33 BROOKLYN J. INT'L L. 629 (2008).
- Christopher E. Paine, *Envisioning Energy: Environment, Economics, and the Energy Future: Article: The Nuclear Security, and Climate Change – Weighing the Costs and Benefits of Nuclear Power Expansion*, 44 U. RICH. L. REV. 1047 (2010).
- W. Chadwick Austin and Antony Barone Kolenc, *Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf? The International Criminal Court as a Weapon of Asymmetric Warfare*, 39 VAND. J. TRANSNAT'L L. 291 (2006).

Supplement:

- *Farmers and Food Advocates Urge Obama to Create a National Sustainable Food and Agricultural Policy (Paul Willis Interview)* (DEMOCRACYNOW!), Dec. 16, 2008 (6 min)

• **Week 8: Strategic Efficacy of Non-Violent Anti-Nuclear & Environmental Grassroots Activities & Politics of Comfort Zone**

- WARD CHURCHILL, DERRICK JENSEN, & MIKE RYAN, *PACIFISM AS PATHOLOGY: REFLECTION ON THE ROLE OF ARMED STRUGGLES IN NORTH AMERICA* (2007)
- B. Rex, *Pacifism Summer: Revolution Summer Through the Lens of*

- Churchill's Pacifism as Pathology (2007)
- KARI NORGAARD, *LIVING IN DENIAL: CLIMATE CHANGE, EMOTIONS AND EVERYDAY LIFE* (2011).
- ARC MCBAY, LIERRE KEITH, & DERRICK JENSEN, *DEEP GREEN RESISTANCE* (2011) (selected chapters)

Supplemental Readings

- NORMAN FINKELSTEIN, *WHAT GANDHI SAYS* (2012).
 - WARD CHURCHILL AND JIM VANDER WALL, *THE COINTELPRO PAPERS 91-164* (1990) (“COINTELPRO-Black Liberation Movement”).
 - *Bill Ayers Weatherman Underground Exposed!* (2008) (9 min)
- **Week 9: Depleted Uranium Ammunitions, Military Use of Radiation, and Public Reliance on Nuclear Energy – Medical, Food, and Water**
 - Nema Milaninia, *The Crisis at Home Following the Crisis Abroad: Health Case Deficiencies for US Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan Wars*, 11 DePaul J. Health Care L. 327 (2008).
 - Lynn Kerr McKay, Ralph H. Johnson, and Laurie Alberts Salita, *Science and the Reasonable Development of Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Resources in Pennsylvania and New York*, 32 Energy L.J. 135 (2011).
 - Kevin Bennardo, *The Rights and Liberties of the Palau Constitution*, 12 *Asian-Pacific L. & Pol'y J.* 1 (2011).
 - Daniel C. Rislove, *Global Warming v. Non-Proliferation: The Time Has Come for Nations to Reassert Their Right to Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy*, 24 WIS. INT'L L.J. 1069 (2007).

Supplement:

- *Patrick Cockburn on Missing Billions in Iraq and Soaring Cancer & Infant Mortality Rates in Fallujah*, [DEMOCRACYNOW!](#), Jul. 29, 2010 (14 min).
- **Week 10: Student Presentations**