

Spring 2019

3 Credit Hours

**(CL-620) Faith in Place:
Organizing for Environmental Justice**
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Instructors

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Additional Faith in Place Staff Organizers
Church and Community Organizers

Office Hours: By Appointment

Prerequisites: None

Main Class Location

Faith in Place Headquarters
70 E. Lake St. Suite 920
Chicago, IL 60616

Class Time: Friday 2:00-5:00pm

Course Description

This course provides educational resources and practical experiences to organize for environmental justice in the contexts of neighborhoods, cities, and regions through not-for-profit management, faith-based leadership, and public engagement. Leadership and content for this course is provided by Faith in Place (faithinplace.org), a globally recognized faith-based environmental justice organization.

Class Format

Instruction sessions consist of classroom meetings and field trips to environmental organizing sites throughout Chicagoland. The class will be held at the Chicago headquarters of Faith in Place and at the various field trip locations, with travel instructions provided beforehand.

Course Objectives

Knowing

1) Students will learn a sample of key theories and perspectives on the notions of creation care, ecological justice, and civic ecology by reading a selected bibliography on these topics, analyzing them in class sessions, and writing 4 reflection papers in which they will summarize these theories and perspectives and imagine how they may apply them in their ministerial contexts. They will also demonstrate this knowledge by incorporating it in the preparation of the outreach projects and on the presentation on the outreach projects.

2) Students will learn about principles and practices for effective work and management of non-profit organizations committed to environmental justice. They will read literature on nonprofit organizations; study the mission, policies, and programs of the organization Faith in Place; examine some evaluation tools; and visit and talk with leaders of at least four community environmental organizations in the Chicago area. Students will evidence this knowledge in the writing of 3 short reflection papers and in class discussions and in the final presentation on outreach projects.

3) Students will learn how to understand critically and engage practically four areas of environmental justice work: a) energy and climate change, b) sustainable food and land use, c) water preservation, and d) advocacy. They will learn about these areas by examining and discussing Faith in Place's programs and materials, along with additional materials, and by reviewing the literature and work of at least 4 other environmental organizations working on these four topics in the Chicago area. Students will demonstrate this knowledge in 4 reflection papers, the design and implementation of two outreach projects, and in the final class presentation.

Being

1) Students will increase their awareness as leaders, organizers, managers, and advocates for the care of the earth and environmental justice by reading and discussing literature on these topics and witnessing the work of leaders and organizations committed to these ends during the site visits. They will demonstrate that awareness in the reflection paper, class discussions, and the practice of organizing two outreach projects.

2) Learners will appreciate the complex challenges facing individuals and communities suffering from environmental injustices by reading pertinent literature, listening to the perspective of their peers, and by talking to people and leaders in the communities they will visit. They will show this appreciation in the reflection papers, class discussions, and the final presentation of the two outreach projects.

3) Participants will increase their sense of resolve for the realization of ecological wellbeing for all people, especially those facing racism, poverty, and other forms of unjust discrimination by developing, with support of the staff of Faith in Place, two environmental outreach projects with a local faith community.

Doing

1) Students will develop basic skills to develop and implement short term environmental justice projects. They will learn and follow the methodology developed by Faith in Place in organizing these two projects with a local community of faith. Students will evidence this knowledge through the evaluation of implementing the projects and in the final presentation on outreach projects.

Required Text

Amanda J. Baugh. God and the Green Divide: religious Environmentalism in Black and White. Oakland, California: University California Press, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-0520291171 \$29.95

Selected Readings (Assigned sections will be provided electronically as PDF)

B. Holly Schadler. The Connection: Strategies for Creating and Operating 5013s, 501c4s, and Political Organizations. The Alliance for Justice: 1998.

Marianne E. Krasney and David Maddox. Grassroots to Global. Impact of Civic Ecology. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Jennifer Ayres. Good Food. Grounded Practical Theology. Waco, Texas: Baylor University Press, 2013.

Earth Habitat: Eco-Injustice and the Church's Response. Dieter Hessel and Larry Rasmussen, Eds. MN: Augsburg Press, 2001.

Confronting Environmental Racism: Voices from the Grassroots. Robert D. Bullard, ed. Boston: South End Press, 1993.

Other materials published by Faith in Place, denominational sources, government agencies, etc.

Course Requirements (Grading grids for these assignments are being developed)

A. Two Outreach Projects Complete 50%

This course will provide the student with guidance to experience planning, implementing, and assessing an environmental justice project in partnership with a local faith community. The student will choose two types of Faith in Place programs to organize with groups of 10 people or more.

1. You host two approved events with 10 or more people attending each event
2. You create an approved outreach plan and stick to it
3. You will be evaluated like an outreach staff member on effort, engagement, and results

B. 10 Weekly Reflection Papers (2 page single-spaced, Times Roman 12 point font, 1 inch margins) 25%

1. Summarize the content learned succinctly
2. Reflect on the content learned and the application for your future ministry
3. Identify what questions remain for you

C. Class Participation – 10%

Class participation involves the following expectations

1. You attend every class period and are on time

2. You demonstrate familiarity with the assigned readings and topics for the day
3. You listen carefully to the instructors, staff, site visit hosts, and your classmates
4. You are an active participant in the class discussions and site visits

D. Final Class Presentation on Outreach Projects – 15% (to be developed)

Grading scale

97-100	A+	73-76	C
93-96	A	70-72	C-
90-92	A-	67-69	D+
87-89	B+	63-66	D
83-86	B	60-62	D-
80-82	B-	<60	F
77-79	C+		

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to Faith in Place and Not-For-Profit Management

Week 2: Introduction to Faith in Place Action Fund and C3, C4, Political Action Committee (PAC), and Not-For-Profit Social Enterprises

Week 3: Energy & Climate Change

Week 4: Energy & Climate Change Field Trip

Week 5: Sustainable Food & Land Use

Week 6: Sustainable Food & Land Use Field Trip

Week 7: Water Preservation

Week 8: Water Preservation Field Trip

Week 9: Advocacy

Week 10: Advocacy Field Trip

Week 11: Not-For-Profit Fundraising

Week 12: Putting it all Together

Week 13: Final Presentations