UP494-KS
Spring 2010
International Urban Environmental Issues

CRN 51183
Department of Urban and Regional Planning
Tuesday & Thursday
11:00am - 12:20pm
Temple Buell Hall, Room 19

Ken Salo, Instructor

You Will Learn

• About the major environmental issues facing cities in developed and developing countries and regions, and especially about trends in climate change and their implications for the built environment
• How debates about environmental challenges and what can be done about them are framed by different actors and interest groups, from multinational governmental organizations such as the United Nations and the European Union, to individual developed and developing countries, to grassroots organizations and citizens groups
• How those various debates and perspectives intersect and interact to expose, shape, or limit policy and planning options for addressing environmental problems in different urban and development contexts
• Why understanding the cultural, political, economic, and social history of places, and especially of inequalities in power and resources, influence policy debates and options
• How to evaluate competing solutions in terms of whether they promote more humane, just and sustainable development

What You Will Do

• Read, including selections from International Political Economy of the Environment by Stevis and Assets, The Urbanization of Injustice by Sanyal and Suryanarayana, International Law from Below by Rajagopal, and Ecological Resistance Movements by Taylor
• Debate the issues in most class sessions, following a brief lecture to set the stage
• Write four reading synopses (two pages each) and a research paper (15-20 pages)
• Present selected prescribed readings (approximately four times over the course of the semester)

About the Instructor

Ken Salo is a Lecturer in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. He holds a Bachelors of Science in Chemistry and Physics from the University of Cape Town; a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Western Cape; and a Master of Laws from the University of Cape Town. He has served as a consultant to natural resources and environmental organizations and agencies in South Africa. Since coming to Illinois he has regularly led students to Cape Town on study abroad field excursions.