

University of Toronto
School of the Environment
ENV1113HS: Social Sustainability: Environmental Justice in Africa

Winter 2024
Tuesdays: 10am – 12pm
Instructor: Prof. Kariuki Kirigia

Course Description

This course sets out to critically explore environmental justice in the African context through a rigorous examination of the concept by drawing from African philosophies such as *Ubuntu*, that are anchored in African ontologies, epistemologies, and cosmologies, African feminisms, and imaginaries of African futures. We shall examine the nature of environmental injustice by engaging texts, theories, ethnographies, and case studies on African colonial histories and afterlives of colonialism, racial capitalism, historical and ongoing land injustices, climate change and climate justice, ecocriticism, decolonization, biodiversity conservation, carbon markets, resource governance and conflicts, environmental education, and environmental justice movements driven especially by African youth. To map the fast-evolving politics and poetics of environmental justice in the African context, we shall engage with African media, songs, and films. At the end of the course, students will have gained in-depth understanding of the complex nature of reading and writing about environmental justice in Africa, value of geographies of knowledge and onto-epistemic decolonization, and to design robust theoretical frameworks for studying environmental justice in Africa and beyond.