This course will serve as a survey of environmental justice principles, history, and scholarship. We will begin with an exploration of its origins in anti-racist and civil rights struggles, and interrogate its departure from mainstream environmentalism in the U.S. Through case studies, interdisciplinary scholarship, and guest speakers, we will become familiar with a range of themes contained under the widening umbrella of environmental justice, including food systems, environmental health, climate change, and economic development. At its core, environmental justice envisions and strives for social equity. As such, we will be engaged in continuous discussions about the nature of social inequity and its relationship to the environment. You will be encouraged to consider (and perhaps reconsider) your definitions of “environment,” “equity,” and “justice” throughout the course.

*Illustration courtesy of Just Seeds