PART ONE: THE BIG PICTURE
A: RISK IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COMMUNITY (WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS)
1-11 A town, an industry, a disease, a lawyer, and a rule
Jonathan Harr, A Civil Action, 3-119

1-16 SPECIAL EVENT Martin Luther King Jr. Day Teach-in Hansen Center 2 PM

1-17 Special evening class at 6 PM in Shaw 105
Discovery and causation: the Grace landfill, TCE, and leukemia
Jonathan Harr, A Civil Action, 123-232
Inge F. Goldstein and Martin Goldstein, How Much Risk?, 3-12; 235-268

1-18 Special evening class at 6 PM in Shaw 105
The trial and the town in turmoil
Jonathan Harr, A Civil Action, skim 235-290; 293-376
Phil Brown and Edwin J. Mikkelsen, No Safe Place, 1-42
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

1-23 The community organizes: FACE and the scientific, governmental, and corporate system
Phil Brown and Edwin J. Mikkelsen, No Safe Place, 43-163
Jonathan Harr, A Civil Action, 379-401

1-25 class debate: what place does popular epidemiology have in the law of a democracy?
Phil Brown and Edwin J. Mikkelsen, No Safe Place, 164-199
Phil Brown, “Popular Epidemiology and Toxic Waste Contamination,” Illness and the Environment, 364-383
Cass Sunstein, Risk and Reason, 28-52

1-27 Micro-essay #1 due in CLA 251 by 4pm

B: RISK IN CONTEXT OF THE POLICY SYSTEM (PESTICIDES)
1-30 DDT as a success story
John Wargo, Our Children’s Toxic Legacy, 3-42
Christopher Bosso, Pesticides and Politics, 21-71

2-1 Pesticides as a problem: Delaney and the regulatory response
Christopher Bosso, Pesticides and Politics, 71-142
John Wargo, Our Children’s Toxic Legacy, 43-85

2-6 The rise of the environmental movement and the EPA
Christopher Bosso, Pesticides and Politics, 143-177
John Wargo, Our Children’s Toxic Legacy, 86-171
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

2-8 class debate: should DDT be used?
Cass Sunstein, Risk and Reason, 10-15
George M. Gray and John D. Graham “Regulating Pesticides,” 173-192 in Risk vs. Risk

2-10 Micro-essay #2 due in CLA 251 by 4pm

2-13 Delaney paradox and the Reagan revolution
Christopher Bosso, *Pesticides and Politics*, 178-206
Breyer, *Breaking the Vicious Cycle*, 3-29

2-15.1 An overview of contemporary regulation of toxic substances
James Salzman and Barton H. Thompson, Jr., *Environmental Law and Policy* 148-169
Breyer, *Breaking the Vicious Cycle*, 33-81

2-20 Delaney and PVC: protection from damn liars?
Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, *Deceit and Denial*, 139-233
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

2-22 *class debate: how should the Delaney clause be reformed?*
Tom Holt, “Modernize our Food Service Laws: Delete the Delaney Clause,” 1-24
John Wargo, *Our Children’s Toxic Legacy*, 251-288

2-24 Micro-essay #3 due in CLA 251 by 4pm

PART TWO: THE DEVIL IN THE DETAILS
A. THE SCIENCE OF ASSESSING AND MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL RISK
2-27 Which risks?: uncertainty, risk assessment, and risk management
Carl F. Cranor, *Regulating Toxic Substances*, 3-48
K. S. Shrader-Frechette, *Risk and Rationality*, 27-65

3-1 Tort law regulation: not scientific truth but balance of interest
Carl F. Cranor, *Regulating Toxic Substances*, 49-102
K. S. Shrader-Frechette, *Risk and Rationality*, 66-74

3-6 The debate over risk assessment
Carl F. Cranor, *Regulating Toxic Substances*, 103-151
Mary H. O’Brien, “When Harm is Not Necessary: Risk Assessment as Diversion,” 113-134 in *Reclaiming the Environmental Debate*
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

3-8 *class debate: should we prefer false negatives to false positives?*
Carl F. Cranor, *Regulating Toxic Substances*, 152-178

3-10 Micro-essay #4 due in CLA 251 by 4pm

B. IMPLEMENTING RISK MANAGEMENT: COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS (CBA)
3-13 1970s environmentalism and an example of CBA
Cass Sunstein, *Risk and Reason*, 1-9; 15-27; 106-128
Albert L. Nichols, "Lead in Gasoline," 49-86 in *Economic Analyses at EPA*

3-15 *class debate: is cost-benefit analysis a good tool for environmental regulation?*
Cass Sunstein, *Risk and Reason*, 153-190
C. MANAGING YESTERDAY’S RISKS TODAY

3-27 The lead story
Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, Deceit and Denial, xi-xv; 1-35; 108-138

3-29 Louisiana’s cancer alley: a legacy of Jim Crow?
Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, Deceit and Denial, 234-286

4-3 The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CARCLA)
Richard Revesz and Richard B. Stewart, Analyzing Superfund, 3-21; 25-50; 55-80
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

4-5 class debate: does Superfund mismanage risk?
Richard Revesz and Richard B. Stewart, Analyzing Superfund, 83-111
Bruce Yandle, “Superfund and Risky Risk Reduction,” 27-57 in Cutting Green Tape

4-7 Micro-essay #6 due in CLA 251 by 4pm

4-10 Introduction to the precautionary principle
Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, Deceit and Denial, 287-306

4-12 Debating the precautionary principle: pro
John Martin Gillroy, Justice and Nature, 38-78; 391-398

4-17 Debating the precautionary principle: con
Cass Sunstein, Risk and Reason, 102-105
Indur M. Goklany, The Precautionary Principle, 1-27
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

4-19 class debate: should we adopt the precautionary principle in regulatory policy?
Cass Sunstein, Risk and Reason, 133-152

4-21 Micro-essay #7 due in CLA 251 by 4pm

4-25 FINAL EXAM 10:15 AM-12:15

Course reading
Each student must purchase the following books available at the IWU Bookstore.

Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner, Deceit and Denial: The Deadly Politics of Industrial Pollution (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002)
John Wargo, Our Children’s Toxic Legacy: How Science and Law Fail to Protect us from Pesticides (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996)
The following books or articles will be kept on e-reserve at Ames Library. The password is “DDT”—all upper case letters.


Social contract
Students are required to complete seven micro-essays (750-850 words each)—with the lowest grade dropped. Help conserve paper by single-spacing your essay and printing on both sides of a sheet of paper. All assignments and the final exam will be posted on my homepage. Go to the menu page and click on the ASSIGNMENTS tab.

60% micro-essays (10% each)
25% final exam
15% class participation (including six class debates)

No student who misses as many as eight class sessions, for whatever reasons, shall receive a passing grade.

Office hours
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