The next presentation of the Social Justice Speaker and Discussion Series is on Creating an Ecological Society by Fred Magdoff. Fred Magdoff is professor emeritus of plant and soil science at the University of Vermont and a long-time commentator on political-economic topics. He is coauthor of The Great Financial Crisis and What Every Environmentalist Needs to Know About Capitalism. The presentation takes place on Tuesday, October 30th from 2:00 – 3:30 PM in Niagara University’s Golisano Center Room 101 and is co-sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Political Science Department, and NU CARES.

This presentation is based on the book of the same name, co-authored by Magdoff and Chris Williams. In the book, Magdoff and Williams, who have devoted their lives to activism, Marxist analysis, and ecological science, provide informed, fascinating accounts of how a new world can be created from the ashes of the old. Their book shows that it is possible to envision and create a society that is genuinely democratic, equitable, and ecologically sustainable. And possible—not one moment too soon—for society to change fundamentally and be brought into harmony with nature.

This must-read book provides a powerfully clear analysis of the inherently destructive nature of capitalist relations of production to global humanity and to the survival of the larger environment of organisms of which human beings are an integral life force. The authors make a convincing, urgent call for a decisive choice to revolt and to transform our lives and replenish our planet through systematic expansion of promising, sustainable projects of social and environmental justice.

—Danny Glover, Citizen-Artist

Remarkably clear, wise, balanced, well written, and at times poetic, this important book takes on one of the great questions of our time.

—Jonathan Neale, author, Stop Global Warming, Change the World

Pushing back against pervasive and debilitating pessimism, Magdoff and Williams have revived the hard work of imagining what an eco-socialist future might actually involve. Regardless of what the future holds, our present struggles will benefit from the optimism of their political imagination.

--Christian Parenti, author, Tropic of Chaos Climate Change and the New Geography of Violence

Creating an Ecological Society is a much-needed vision of what the future might look like if a socio-ecological revolution could be implemented. Such a society would be consistent with bio-ecological cycles and the fulfillment of human needs. Anyone who wishes to rethink the planet as a sustainable human/ecological system should read this book.

—Carolyn Merchant, author, The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution

Sickened by the contamination of water, air, of the Earth itself, more and more people are coming to realize that capitalism is, quite literally, killing them. Already, hundreds of millions of people are facing poverty in the midst of untold wealth, perpetual war, growing racism, and gender oppression. The need to organize for social and environmental reforms has never been greater. But crucial as reforms are, they cannot solve our intertwined ecological and social crises. Creating an Ecological Society reveals an overwhelmingly simple truth: Fighting for reforms is vital, but revolution is essential.

All are encouraged to attend—please feel free to bring classes, friends, colleagues.