ENVS 610—Thesis Development
CRN 32515
Tuesday, Thursday 12:00-1:50
249 Columbia (ENVS conference room)

Spring 2012
Prof. L. Westling
Office 827 PLC; 346-3938
Email: lhwest@uoregon.edu
Hours: Tues. 1-3; Thurs. 1:30-3:00

Course Description

Students will design course activities, in cooperation with the Instructor, to prepare their MA Thesis Prospectus. Each student will be responsible for two class meetings during the term, one in the first 5 weeks on research area and one during the second half of the term on the specific arguments and problems in the thesis research. In these class meetings students lead discussion on appropriate readings and assignments they have provided to facilitate group collaboration and critique of the thesis plan. Assignments include preparing and leading the two course meetings; preparation of a poster and short talk to present at the Joint Campus Conference hosted by PSU on Friday, May __; and the thesis proposal to be submitted on Thursday of Week 10.

Tentative Schedule Outline (to be flexed as we move along)

Week I, April 3—Introductions and Planning; tentative schedule of presentations sketched out.

**Thursday, April 5—a 1-page analysis of stage of thesis planning is due by email to Prof. Westling: What is research question? What has been done so far? What are main conceptual problems? What are main practical problems? What needs to be done in the next four or five weeks to be ready to start writing the Proposal?

April 5—Complete scheduling of presentations, discussion of JCC

Week II, April 10 —Presenter: Keats Conley "Perceived Jellyfish Proliferation and the Trojan Horse Hypothesis"


April 12—Presenter: Andrew Dutterer "The Delta Plan: A New Vision for California's San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay"


1:00—Visit from Caitlin Alcorn, Research Compliance Services, to discuss Human Subjects Approval
Week III, April 17 — Presenter: Kirsten Vinyeta "Photovoice and Culturally Appropriate Discussion of Climate Change Impacts with Traditional Cultures"


April 19 -- Presenter: Alayna Linde: "Affecting Behavioral Change in China"


Hall, Shane, Alayna Linde, Marissa Williams, and Chithira Vijayakumar, "Healthy Home, Healthy Planet: Empowering rural communities by providing access to safe drinking water while decreasing fuel consumption" ILS Proposal, January 29, 2012.

Week IV, April 24 -- Presenter: Chris Piccioni: "How Does Oregon’s Land Use Regulation Play Into Agricultural Adaptation in the South Willamette Valley?"


April 26 -- Presenter: Chithira Vijayakumar: "Understanding Textures of Dissent: The Karuk Tribe, a Case Study in the History and Nature of Protest Among Indigenous Communities"


Week V, May 1 -- Presenter: Marissa Williams: "Transitional Organic: Abilities and Issues"


May 3 -- Presenter: Lisa Lombardo: "Ecological Thought in the Art of Nina Katchadourian"


Week VI, May 8 -- Presenter: Keats Conley: "Predicting the impact of bivalve aquaculture development on jellyfish populations in Oregon’s nearshore and evaluating the impact of jellyfish on local fishers"

Reading: Thesis proposal outline.

Week VII, May 15: Presenter: Kirsten Vinyata: "Community Photography: Can it Strengthen Tribal Sovereignty in a Climate Change Context?"
Reading: Thesis Proposal Draft

17: Presenter: Alayna Linde: "Healthy Home, Healthy Planet: Evaluating Philanthropy in Hunan, China"
Reading: Linde, A. Draft Thesis Proposal

Week VIII, May 22: Presenter: Cris Piccioni: "Water Policy in the Willamette Basin"
Reading: Piccioni, Draft Thesis Proposal

Reading: Vijayakumar, C., Thesis Proposal Draft

Week IX, May 29: Presenter: Marissa Williams, "Consumer Willingness to Pay for Transitional Organic Produce: A Stated Preference Study of Lane County Residents
Reading: Williams, M., Draft Thesis Proposal

31: Presenter: Lisa Lombardo, "Biosemiotics/Animal Studies and the Art of Nina Katchadourian"
Reading: Draft Thesis Proposal

Week X, June 5 Peer Evaluation of Thesis Proposals. Teams: Cris Piccioni and Andrew Dutterer, Chithira Vijayakumar and Kirsten Vinyata, Marissa Williams and Keats Conley, and Alayna Linde and Lisa Lombardo

Lunch meeting June 7--The Glenwood
Review and evaluation of the year's work.

**Thesis Proposal Due Thursday, June 7 or at latest Friday morning, June 8 so that Gayla can collate copies and distribute them to the Evaluation Committee. Also be sure to send an electronic version of your poster to Molly and to Alan Dickman by this date. You’ll be meeting with the Evaluating Committee during Exam Week, time TBA.

**Because the Joint Campus Conference at Portland State University was moved from Spring Term to next Fall Term, attendance with poster will not be possible until next fall. ENVS will cover technology costs for your posters. But If you do them at the AAA Lab, you will get a ticket from RaDonna to use in the lab. If you do your poster at the BioOptics Lab, they will charge the ENVS account. Just check with RaDonna about this.