

WINTER 2016 T&R 4-5:50

ENVS 411

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONSIDERATION OF ARMED CONFLICT, MILITARISM, & NATURE

Instructor: Julie Bacon office hours 2:50-3:50 columbia hall 240

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course considers the relationship between the natural environment and armed conflict (focused mostly on the US and Canada). We will utilize an interdisciplinary approach in order to understand the way militarization and ecology intersect.

Some topics include:

- The use of police forces / armies / militias to extract resources
- The transformation of military sites into wildlife refuges
- The environmental impacts of militarization and warfare

COURSE GOALS: Students will consider the complex relationship between armed conflicts over ecology and the ecological impacts of armed conflict. Students will be asked to think critically about narratives of scarcity, security, and nationalism in the context of globalization, settler-colonialism, and transnational capitalism.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: By the end of the course students will (1) be familiar with critical approaches to thinking about conflict and the environment, (2) be familiar with the ecological impacts of militarism, (3) students will develop and complete a research paper/project relevant to this topic

REQUIRED READING:

Debriefing Elsipogtog: The Anatomy of a Struggle by Miles Howe

Proving Grounds: Militarized Landscapes, Weapons Testing, and the Environmental Impact of U.S. Bases Edwin A. Martini (Editor)

Burning Vision by Marie Clements

*additional articles on Canvas

GRADING CRITERIA

Final Project – 50%

Case Study based on a particular environmental issue (academic or creative research project).

In-Class Participation – 30%

-Shows active and thoughtful engagement with the material

Tests – 10% (x2) Tests are 50 questions T/F and Multiple Choice or a take home essay

ACCOMMODATION

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (formerly Disability Services) in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu .

Some Important Student Resources at UO

Sexual Violence Prevention and Education

<http://asap.uoregon.edu/>

Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence

<http://cmae.uoregon.edu/>

Multicultural Center

<http://pages.uoregon.edu/mcc/>

Women's Center

<http://pages.uoregon.edu/women/>

Teaching and Learning Center

<http://tlc.uoregon.edu/>

| LECTURE FOCUS | DATE | READING | DUE |
|---|-------------------|--|------------------------|
| 1 Intro | Thurs 1/7 | Articles | |
| | Fri 1/8 midnight | | Major Project HW 1 |
| 2 Colonialism and Security Discourses / Theories | Tues 1/12 | "Laid To Waste" PAX | |
| | Thur 1/14 | "Weather, Otters and Bombs" | |
| | Fri 1/15 midnight | | Major Project HW 2 |
| 3 EJ and Ecofeminist Theories | Tues 1/19 | Clement <i>Burning Vision</i> | |
| | Thurs 1/21 | | |
| | Fri 1/22 midnight | | Major Project HW 3 |
| 4 Human/ Environmental Health | Tues 1/26 | "This is Really Bad Stuff " | |
| | Thurs 1/28 | | |
| | Fri 1/29 midnight | | Annotated Bibliography |
| 5 Power and Sovereignty Theories | Tues 2/2 | TEST 1 | |
| | Thurs 2/4 | "Restoration and Meaning on Former Military Lands" | |
| 6 M2W Conversions and Discourse Analysis | Tues 2/9 | Eliott excerpt | |
| | Thurs 2/11 | | |
| 7 Case Study of Elsipogtog | Tues 2/16 | "Good Dictator Bad Dictator" Neruda | |
| | Thurs 2/18 | Start <i>Debriefing Elsipogtog</i> | |
| | Fri 2/19 midnight | | Lit Review |
| 8 Political Ecology and Militarized Extraction | Tues 2/23 | <i>Debriefing Elsipogtog</i> | |
| | Thurs 2/25 | Finish <i>Debriefing Elsipogtog</i> | Pitch of Final Project |
| 9 | Tues 3/1 | Deadly Environment | |
| | Thurs 3/3 | TEST 2 | |
| 10 Social Movements | 3/8 | "A Wildlife Insurgency" | |
| | 3/10 | | |
| FINAL EXAM / PRESENTATION TIME 3/17 12:30 PM | | | |

Generally about 30 minutes of each day will be used as a lab time for working on materials or activities related to the final project.

Thursdays will have about 20-40 minutes dedicated to seminar-style discussion of that week's readings. Always bring readings to class on Thursdays.

Major Course Project

The form and content of the final project is flexible in order to accommodate the variety of student interests and ambition. Form may be academic, professional, or creative. Students may work alone or in teams of 2-3 people (project expectations will be adjusted for groups).

ALL projects will include:

1. A literature review of relevant materials (completed in week 7)
2. An "Introduction" that uses at least 8 readings from our course to explain what the connections are between militarism (armed conflict) and the environment and why it is important. This part of the project is basically like a final essay showing what you've learned in the course.
3. A complete works cited.

Creative projects will also need to include a 3-4 page artist's statement.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

Week 1

Explore what environmental issues / organizations are of interest to you. Where do you see yourself going with this degree? What kinds of solutions are you hoping to be a part of?

Due: HW 1 due by Friday of week 1

Week 2

Brainstorming how might your interests intersect with issues of armed conflict?

Due: HW 2 due by Friday of week 2

Office Hour meetings (about 10-15 minutes each)

Week 3 & 4

Researching how your interests intersect with armed conflict. During this time period you will gather both academic and popular sources relating to your interests & armed conflict.

Due: HW 3 due Friday Week 3

Office Hour meetings during week 3 (about 10-15 minutes each)

Annotated Bibliography of 10-15 sources (min. 8 academic/professional) due by Friday of week 4

Week 5

Midterm Exam taken this week. NO PROJECT WORK

Week 6 & 7

Preparing a lit review that summarizes how your interests intersect with armed conflict.

Due: 2-4 page lit review of your bibliography materials due Friday of week 7

Office Hours not required by strongly recommended during this phase

Week 8

Pitching final project concept.

Due: 1-2 page explanation of your final project form due by class on Thurs

Week 9 & 10

Creating the project. Nothing due, but it is smart to check in with me.

Finals Week

Due: During our university assigned Final Exam period you will present you final project.

Component Worth

Meetings – 10%

Lit Review – 15%

Introduction – 25 %

The Project – 40%

Presentation – 10%

Rubrics will be designed once project forms have been determined.