

**ENVS 203**

**TR 10-11:20, Global Scholars Hall 123**

**Professor Stephanie LeMenager**

**457 PLC**

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**O.H: TR 4-5pm and by apt.**

### **Introduction to Environmental Studies: Humanities**

In this course we will learn about what the Humanities are, as an interdisciplinary field, and how Humanities methods and research contribute to environmental thought and action. The class involves reading and research but also creativity and innovation. It is a lab in which we will think together about the possible futures of our stressed planet and how to harness imagination in the service of a livable world.

#### **Texts**

J.M. Coetzee, *The Lives of Animals* (1999)

Patricia Smith, *Blood Dazzler* (2008)

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home* (2015)

*Into Eternity: A Film for the Future* –shown in class

*Sun Come Up*—shown in class and available via UO KANOPY

**COURSE READER available at THE COPY SHOP, 539 East 13th Ave.**

#### **Requirements**

**Participation (10%):** Includes regular attendance **in lecture and section**, informed discussion by students, completion of **four very short writings in lecture** offered throughout the quarter. **Your GE will inform you of the attendance policy and penalty system for your section.**

**Midterm Exam (25%):** An in-class exam that asks students to demonstrate understanding of course readings and basic concepts. Students should study by reviewing readings and notes from class discussion. **Date: 4/30**

**Field Project (30%):** Students complete two projects outside of the classroom to enhance imaginative experience and the ability to apply course insights. The first project is an Environmental Justice Memoir. This assignment asks you to make environmental justice relevant to your personal experience, to demonstrate basic research skills, and to explain your approach to discovering and addressing an environmental harm in your neighborhood, hometown, or region. **Due to your GE by Tues, May 14.** The second project is to play a game. The award winning Silicon Valley game designer Ken Eklund has created a cellphone adventure game called *Abundant Future* for UO. The *Abundant Future* experience requires you to move from the campus to a small area of Eugene and is intended to raise questions and spark ideas about possible futures. You will be asked to offer a 3-page commentary on the game, which will be conveyed to the designer (Eklund) who will visit our class on June 4th. Responses to *Abundant Futures* are **due to GE by Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**

**but can come in at any time. It is possible to play the game with limited or no mobility, so please ask about that option if it's important to you.**

**Final Exam (35%):** This exam asks students to demonstrate understanding of course readings, close reading skills, and flexible use of theoretical concepts that we have learned throughout the quarter. Study should include reviewing all readings and class notes. **Exam will be take-home. Due to your GE via email or Canvas anytime before 8am on June 12<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Policies**

**Discrimination and Harassment Reporting:** Any student who has experienced sexual assault, relationship violence, sex or gender-based bullying, stalking, and/or sexual harassment may seek resources and help at [safe.uoregon.edu](http://safe.uoregon.edu). From the SAFE website, students may also connect to Callisto, a confidential, third-party reporting site that is not a part of the university. As UO policy has different reporting requirements based on the nature of the reported harassment or discrimination, more information about reporting requirements for discrimination or harassment is available at <http://aaeo.uoregon.edu/content/discrimination-harassment>. For details about confidentiality of information and reporting obligations of employees go to: [titleix.uoregon.edu](http://titleix.uoregon.edu). As a Student Directed Employee, I will direct students who disclose sexual harassment or violence to resources that can help and will only report the information shared to the university administration when the student requests that the information be reported (unless someone is in imminent risk of serious harm or a minor). I am required to report all other forms of prohibited discrimination or harassment to the administration.

**Incomplete Policy:** Undergraduate students have one calendar year to make up an incomplete mark assigned by a UO faculty member. Failure to make up the incomplete at the end of one calendar year will result in the mark of "I" automatically changing to a grade of "F" or "N." No incompletes will be granted, except in case of medical or personal emergency.

**Students Needing Accommodation:** UO strives to create inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations, please notify me and the Accessible Education Center (164 Oregon Hall; <http://aec.uoregon.edu>), so we can make appropriate arrangements.

**Use of Electronic Devices.** Laptops and tablets for taking notes are permitted, but cell-phone use during class is forbidden. Texting or surfing the web during class time is distracting and disrespectful to your instructor and classmates. Headphones should be removed during class. Students who violate this policy will be asked to leave class and marked as "absent (unexcused)"; final grades will be impacted negatively.

**Academic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty is not tolerated in this course or at this university. All work submitted must be your own and written for this course. The use of sources—ideas, quotations, paraphrases; from papers, articles, books, or websites—must be properly acknowledged and documented. If you have any doubts or questions about plagiarism or the University's policy on it, go to: <http://policies.uoregon.edu/vol-3-administration-studentaffairs/ch-1-conduct/student-conduct-code>. Clearly established plagiarism or cheating will result in a final course grade of “F,” and all incidents will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. In cases of a second offense, plagiarism or cheating can result in dismissal from the University.

**Inclement Weather.** In the event of inclement weather, a banner will appear on the UO homepage displaying information about delay, cancellation or closure decisions for the Eugene campus. The latest updates and bulletins will be here: <https://alerts.uoregon.edu/>. I will use canvas to communicate information specific to the course. For more information on UO inclement weather policies go to: <https://hr.uoregon.edu/about-hr/campus-notifications/inclement-weather>.

### **Preferred Name/Pronoun**

Please inform your GTF and/or the Professor if your preferred name and/or pronoun is different from what appears on the course register.

## **Course Schedule**

### **UNIT ONE: HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS**

#### **WEEK ONE**

**4/2**

#### **Introduction**

*What Are the Humanities, and Who Are We?*

Charles C. Mann, “The State of the Species” (2012) *on Canvas*

**4/4**

J.M. Coetzee, *The Lives of Animals* (1999)

René Descartes, *From the Letters of 1646 and 1649*

#### **WEEK TWO**

**4/9**

*The Lives of Animals (cont'd)*

**4/11**

Deborah Bird Rose, “Looking into Extinction” (2011)

Maya Lin, “What Is Missing?” (<https://whatismissing.net>)

### **UNIT TWO: CONSERVATION**

### **WEEK THREE**

**4/16**

Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic" (1949)  
The Wilderness Act of 1964

**4/18**

Lauret Savoy, "Alien Land Ethic: the distance between" (2015)

### **WEEK FOUR**

**4/23**

Ramachandra Guha, "Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique" (1987)

**4/25**

Charles Wilkinson, "'At Bears Ears We Can Hear the Voices of Our Ancestors in Every Canyon and on Every Mesa Top': The Creation of the First Native National Monument" (2018)

### **WEEK FIVE**

**4/30**

**In-Class Midterm Exam**

### ***UNIT THREE: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE***

**5/2**

Patricia Smith, *Blood Dazzler* (2008)

Watch in class: Excerpts from *Trouble the Water* (dir. Tia Lessin, Carl Deal, 2008)

### **WEEK SIX**

**5/7**

Patricia Smith, *Blood Dazzler* (2008)

David Naguib Pellow, "Black Lives Matter as an Environmental Justice Challenge" (2016)

**5/9**

Devon G. Peña, "Tierra y Vida: Chicano Environmental Justice Struggles in the Southwest" (2005)

Guest Speaker, filmmaker Alex Rivera

### ***UNIT FOUR: Environmental Futures***

### **WEEK SEVEN**

**5/14**

Watch in Class: *Into Eternity: A Film for the Future* (2010; dir. Michael Madsen)

**5/16**

Paul J. Crutzen, "The Anthropocene: Geology of Mankind" (2002) *on Canvas*  
Dipesh Chakrabarty, "The Climate of History: Four Theses" (2009)

## **WEEK EIGHT**

**5/21**

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si: On Care of Our Common Home* (2015)

**5/23**

*Laudato Si*

Watch in Class: *Sun Come Up* (2011; director, Jennifer Redfearn)

## **WEEK NINE**

**5/28**

Roy Scranton, "Learning How to Die in the Anthropocene" (2013) *on Canvas*

Daniel R. Wildcat, "A Red Alert for Indigenous Action in Life-Enhancing Cultures" (2009)

**5/30**

Kyle Powis Whyte, "Our Ancestors' Dystopia Now" (2017)

Nomi Stone, "Anthropocene" (2016) *on Canvas*

## **WEEK TEN**

**6/4**

Holly Jean Buck, "On the Possibilities of a Charming Anthropocene" (2015)

Guest Speaker Ken Eklund, Game Designer

**6/6 Conclusion**

Discussion of Final Exam