

## Preliminary Web Course Description

\*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

### School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*2130	Course Title: Seminar: Literature and Social Change	Date of Offering: <b>FALL 2018</b>
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Course Instructor: M. Nandorfy	Course Format: Seminar
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#### Brief Course Synopsis:

This course will examine the myriad relationships between climate change and social change through fiction (cli-fi) and non-fiction (creative, journalistic, pedagogical, scientific). No scientific background is expected of students, as the works studied will be geared to non-experts whose aim is to understand the main causes, effects, implications, and literary and cultural responses to the profound social changes that different societies around the world will be experiencing over the next several decades. We will also explore the emotional impact of climate change on individuals, particularly on young people facing life on a degraded planet where shortages of resources also mean greater inequality and the potential of increased violence. Our study of the social aspects of climate change will include the psychological experience of ‘environmental grief’ caused by a sense of loss that can paralyze people, thereby adding to human inertia and lack of concerted effort to mitigate the imminent and inevitable changes we face. Surprisingly perhaps, climate fiction is not always dystopian; many of the stories explore new and ancient perspectives on positive social change toward Earth justice.

#### Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

3 short response papers: (500 words @): 10; 12; 15%  
seminar presentation in pairs: 16%  
quality of class participation: 10%  
essay proposal (500 words): 12%  
final essay (1500 words): 25%

#### Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Bacigalupi, Paolo. *The Water Knife* (2015)  
Casper, Claudia. *The Mercy Journals* (2016)  
Cullen, Heidi. *The Weather of the Future: Heat Waves, Extreme Storms, and Other Scenes From a Climate-Changed Planet* (2010)  
Dunlap, Julie & Susan A. Cohen eds. *Coming of Age at the End of Nature* (2016)  
Meyer, Bruce ed. *Canadian Tales of Climate Change* (2017)  
Squarzoni, Philippe. *Climate Changed (Graphic Novel)*(2014)

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

**List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: 20th/21st century**