

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 6811	Course Title: Special Topics: Cli-fi & ecocriticism	Date of Offering: W22
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Course Instructor: Martha Nandorfy	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This course focuses primarily on Canadian, American, and Australian contemporary Environmental Literature as well as Anthropocene Fiction that combines Climate and Science Fiction, and Donna Haraway's challenge to this term with her own: Chthulucene. Our study of this literature will be impelled by Adam Trexler's questions: 'How does living in the Anthropocene reconfigure human economies and ecosystems? How does climate change alter the forms and potentialities of art and cultural narrative? Western traditions and theories relating to environmental thinking such as science and Deism, Deep Ecology, Posthumanism, and the idea of Post-Nature (or that nature no longer exists) will be read against Indigenous storytelling about earth justice, and critics like Haraway who story new ways of being with companion species on this damaged Earth and facing into the storms. Besides applying these approaches to stories in our critical analyses, we will explore the emotional impact of climate change, and its myriad implications for young people facing life on a degraded planet where shortages of resources also mean greater inequality and increased violence.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

2 Seminar presentations	10 & 15
quality of class participation	10
Response Paper 1 (1,250 words)	15
Response Paper 2 (2,000 words)	20
Final comparative essay (5,000 words)	30

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

Required Reading:

Casper, Claudia. *The Mercy Journals* (available online)

Ghosh, Amitav. *Gun Island* (ordered to library)

Haraway, Donna. *Staying with the Trouble* (print book and online)

Meyer, Bruce ed. *Canadian Tales of Climate Change*: required (available online)

Nicholas, Kimberly. *Under the Sky We Make*. (ordered to library)

Wright, Alexis. *The Swan Book* (ordered to library)

Short story selections on Ares:

Ali, Kazim. 'The Poplar Vote' 101

Leung, Carrienne. 'Writing in a Dangerous Time' 243 (both from *Watch Your Head*)

From Adams, John Joseph ed., *Loosed Upon the World*:

Shepard, Jim. 'The Netherlands Lives with Water'

Singh, Vandana. 'Engtangement'

Quifan, Chen. 'The Smog Society'

Castle, Sarah. 'Mutant Stag at Horn Creek'

Sparks, Cat. 'Hot Rods'

Atwood, M. 'Time Capsule Found on a Dead Planet'

Le Guin, Ursula. Buffalo Gals, 'Won't You Come Out Tonight' *The Found and the Lost*

Le Guin 'The Carrier Bag Theory of Fiction' in *The Ecocriticism Reader*

Silko, Leslie Marmon. 'Storyteller' in *Storyteller*

Silko 'Landscape, History, and the Pueblo Imagination' in *The Ecocriticism Reader*

Gunn Allen, Paula 'The Sacred Hoop: A Contemporary Perspective' in *The Ecocriticism Reader*

Recommended Reading:

Wallace-Wells, David. *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming* (inter-library)

Cullen, Heidi. *The Weather of the Future* (inter-library)

Earle, Steven. *A Brief History of the Earth's Climate* (ordered by library)

Gibson, Katherine et al eds., *Manifesto for Living in the Anthropocene* 2020 (open access)

Koepcke, Arno. *The Environmentalist's Dilemma: Promise and Peril in an Age of Climate Crisis* (ordered to library)

Dufresne, Todd. *The Democracy of Suffering: Life on the Edge of Catastrophe, Philosophy in the Anthropocene* (available online)

Kolbert, Elizabeth. *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History* (inter-library)

Linden, Eugene. *The Winds of Change* (library stacks and inter-library)

Glotfelty, Cheryll and Harold Fromm eds., *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Criticism* (inter-library)

Butler, Octavia. *Parable of the Sower* (available online)

Recommended Viewing:

The Sixth Extinction: Human Role (available online)

Ghosh, Amitav. *The Great Derangement* book or

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S3t3Nteo-QI>

Reading and Conversation on *Gunn Island*

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pixQalTh0xQ>

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018: n/a

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

Face to face

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.