

E314J: Literature and Climate Change

Spring 2015

Instructor: Steven J LeMieux

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Office: FAC 16

Office Hours: Tuesday 8:00-9:30AM

Thursday 11:00-12:30PM

Classroom and Time: FAC 10, TTH 9:30-11:00

Unique Number: 34065

Flag: Writing

Prerequisites: English 603A, Rhetoric and Writing 306, 306Q, or Tutorial Course 603A.

Description: The Anthropocene is upon us. The term, coined in the 1980s, marks the geological era in which Homo sapiens have had a significant impact on the earth. That humans have altered the earth isn't a matter of debate, how and how much is. Over the last 20 years discussion and acknowledgement of anthropomorphic climate change has steadily emerged across numerous spheres of discourse. Throughout this course we'll navigate the porous border between nature and culture as we read a variety of texts that inscribe different relationships between humans and the earth.

The primary aim of this course is to help students develop and improve the critical reading, writing, and thinking skills needed for success in upper-division courses in English and other disciplines. They will also gain practice in using the Oxford English Dictionary and other online research tools and print resources that support studies in the humanities. Students will learn basic information literacy skills and models for approaching literature with various historical, generic, and cultural contexts in mind.

This course contains a writing flag. The writing assignments in this course are arranged procedurally with a focus on invention, development through instructor and peer feedback, and revision; they will comprise a major part of the final grade

Tentative Texts will include:

Henry David Thoreau, *Walden* (1854)

Andrew Stanton, *Wall E* (2008)

Michel Serres, *Malfeasance: Appropriation Through Pollution* (2010)

Barbara Kingsolver, *Flight Behavior* (2013)

Requirements & Grading

10% Participation

20% Growing and Reading Journal/Reading Quizzes

20% Paper One (1200 words)

20% Paper Two (1200 words)

30% Paper Three (1800 words)

Grade Range:

Writing Flag: This course carries the Writing Flag. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and you may be asked to read and discuss your peers' work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work. Writing Flag classes meet the Core Communications objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Policies:

Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. The new Student Honor Code states: "As a student of The University of Texas at Austin, I shall abide by the core values of the University and uphold academic integrity."

Academic Integrity: Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. For additional information on Academic Integrity, see <http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acadint.php>

Documented Disability Statement: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone) or <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>

Religious Holy Days: By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give you an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

UNIT 1: READING CLOSELY

Week One

January 20 Syllabus and Introduction
January 22 Emerson, "Nature" (Canvas)
Growing and Reading Journal

Week Two

January 27 Thoreau, selections from "Economy" *Walden* [J]
January 29 Thoreau, "Where I lived, and What I Lived For" *Walden*
First Paper Assigned

Week Three

February 3 Thoreau, "Bean Field" and "Higher Laws" *Walden* [J]
February 5 Thoreau, "Solitude" and "Visitors" *Walden*

Week Four

February 10 Haraway, excerpt from "The Cyborg Manifesto"
In-class OED exercise
February 12 Thoreau, "Spring" and "Conclusion" *Walden*

UNIT 2: INFORMATION LITERACY

Week Five

February 17 McKibben, "A New World" *Eaarth* [J]
February 19 Begin IPCC Fifth Assessment Report

Week Six

February 24 IPCC AR5 continued [J]
February 26 Climate Change on the Internet
Bring a site/article/blogpost to class. [J]

Week Seven

March 3 Paper One peer Review
March 5 Using the UT library
March 6 **Paper One Due by 11:59PM**

UNIT 3: FINDING CONTEXT

Week Eight

March 10 **Paper Two Assigned**

March 12 Schuessler, "Starting Over" *New York Times*
Chakrabarty, "The Climate of History: Four Theses" *Critical Inquiry* [J]

Week Nine

March 17 SPRING BREAK / Watch Wall E
March 19 SPRING BREAK / Watch Wall E

Week Ten

March 24 Serres, *Malfeasance*: Appropriation Through Pollution? [J]
March 26 Serres, *Malfeasance*: Appropriation Through Pollution? [J]

Week Eleven

March 31 **Paper Two Peer Review**
April 2 Carson, *Silent Spring* Exerpt [J]
April 3 Paper Two Due 11:59PM

Week Twelve

April 7 **Paper Three Assigned**
Kingsolver *Flight Behavior*
April 9 Kingsolver *Flight Behavior* (103) [J]

UNIT 4: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Week Thirteen (Journal Note: Choose one day to write)

April 14
Kingsolver *Flight Behavior* [J]
April 16 Kingsolver *Flight Behavior* (245) [J]

Week Fourteen (Journal Note: Choose one day to write)

April 21 Kingsolver *Flight Behavior* [J]
April 23 Kingsolver *Flight Behavior* (329) [J]

Week Fifteen (Journal Note: Choose one day to write)

April 28 Kingsolver *Flight Behavior* [J]
April 30 Kingsolver *Flight Behavior* (433) [J]

Week Sixteen

May 5 **Paper Three Round Table**
May 7 Evaluations and final discussion

Finals Week

May 15 **Paper Three Due 11:59PM**
May 18 **Final Exam Date (no exam)**

