

COMMUNICATION 7200: ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNICATION

Fall 2015 Wednesdays 3:00-6:00 p.m. LNCO 2830

Professor: Danielle Endres, Ph.D.

Email Address: danielle.endres@utah.edu

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-3pm and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course explores the field of environmental communication, particularly but not exclusively from a rhetorical perspective. This course is designed to present a different topical theme in the study of environmental communication each week. The course is by no means an exhaustive survey of the field of environmental communication, but will offer a good introduction to some of the major themes in the field.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:

1. Books:

Abram, David. *The Spell of the Sensuous: Perception and Language in a More-Than-Human World*. 1st Vintage Books Ed. Vintage, 1997.

Pezzullo, Phaedra C. *Toxic Tourism: Rhetorics of Pollution, Travel, and Environmental Justice*. 1st ed. University of Alabama Press, 2007.

Nixon, Rob. *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2011.***Also available as an E-book at the library

Note: I did not order these books at the campus bookstore. Please get copies on your own.

2. Course readings available on *Canvas*

ASSIGNMENTS:

Reaction Papers (30%): Frequent reading and writing are crucial to the success of a graduate level class. You are expected to have completed your reading assignments before each class session. To reward thoughtful attention to the readings, you will be required to turn in a reaction paper each week. Reaction papers should not merely summarize the readings, but should present an argument about a theme that emerged in the readings. Reaction papers should be no more than one single spaced page and are due by via Canvas by midnight on the Tuesday night before class.

Final Paper Proposal (20%): You will turn in a 5-10 page paper proposal due on **October 7**. In this, you should introduce your topic, explain its significance, link it to conversations in environmental communication, and explain what you plan to do.

Final Paper (50%): Write a 20-25 double-spaced page environmental communication paper. The final product should be ready to submit for a conference or journal for review. In addition to the paper due on **December 16**, you will give an in-class presentation on your paper on **December 9**. We will talk more about this assignment in class. I *highly*

recommend that you start working on your paper/project early in the semester and that you talk with me when you have chosen a topic.

POLICIES

Grading Criteria: Every grade you receive on an assignment in this class will be determined according to the following scale:

A = Excellent. To receive an “A,” your assignment must not only meet all of the requirements, but should also exceed the expectations and standards.

B = Good. A “B” is a good grade. It means you met all of the requirements of the assignment and have done a good job in meeting those requirements.

C = Unsatisfactory work

Assignments: All assignments are due *via Canvas* by midnight on the due date and should follow the format and page limitation specifications listed in the assignment description. Failure to meet these requirements will result in lowered grades. In the event you do not turn in your assignment on the day it is due, late written assignments will receive a full letter grade reduction for every full day they are late (i.e. A to B).

Statement on Attendance: Because participation and cooperative learning are essential to the design of this course, you are expected to attend class and participate. See the Student Handbook for the university policy on absences.

Statement on Content Accommodation: All of the content, reading assignments, films, assignments, and other teaching materials have been chosen in order to achieve the pedagogical objectives of this course best. Some of the writings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking. I will not make content accommodations in this course.

Statement on Academic Misconduct: Academic misconduct is a serious violation of your contract as a student and will be treated severely. The university policy on academic misconduct is in the student code available at <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>.

ADA Statement: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Service, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements for accommodation.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS:

****Readings available on Canvas unless noted*

August 26: Introduction to Environmental Communication

- Hansen, Anders, and Robert Cox. "Introduction: Environment and Communication." In *The Routledge Handbook of Environment and Communication*, edited by Anders Hansen and Robert Cox, 1–10. Abingdon, Oxon ; New York, NY: Routledge, 2015.
- Depoe, Stephen, and Robert Cox. "Emergence and Growth of the Field of Environmental Communication." In *The Routledge Handbook of Environment and Communication*, edited by Anders Hansen and Robert Cox, 13–25. Abingdon, Oxon ; New York, NY: Routledge, 2015.
- Milstein, Tema. "Environmental Communication Theories." In *Encyclopedia of Communication Theory*, edited by Stephen W. Littlejohn and Karen A. Foss, 344–49. Los Angeles, CA: Sage, 2009.
- Cox, Robert. "Nature's 'Crisis Disciplines': Does Environmental Communication Have an Ethical Duty?" *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture* 1, no. 1 (2007): 5–20.

September 2: Perspectives on Environment/Environmentalism

- Corbett, Julia. "A Spectrum of Environmental Ideologies." In *Communicating Nature: How We Create and Understand Environmental Messages*, 26–56. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2006.
- Lakoff, George. "Why It Matters How We Frame the Environment." *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture* 4, no. 1 (2010): 70–81.
- Pezzullo, Phaedra C., and Ronald Sandler. "Introduction: Revisiting the Environmental Justice Challenge to Environmentalism." In *Environmental Justice and Environmentalism: The Social Justice Challenge to the Environmental Movement*, edited by Ronald Sandler and Phaedra C. Pezzullo, 1–24. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 2007.
- Delicath, John W., and Kevin Michael DeLuca. "Image Events, the Public Sphere, and Argumentative Practice: The Case of Radical Environmental Groups." *Argumentation* 17, no. 3 (September 2003): 315–33.
- Jensen, Derrick. "Self-Evident Truths." *Orion*, 2012. (Not on Canvas; see: <https://orionmagazine.org/article/self-evident-truths/>)
- Multi-Author, "An Ecomoderist Manifesto," April 2015. <http://www.ecomodernism.org>.

September 9: Climate Change

- Dryzek, John S., Richard B. Norgaard, and David Schlosberg. "Climate Change and Society: Approaches and Responses." In *The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Society*, edited by John S. Dryzek, Richard B. Norgaard, and David Schlosberg, 3–17. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Moser, Susanne C., and Lisa Dilling. "Toward the Social Tipping Point: Creating a Climate For Change." In *Creating a Climate for Change: Communicating Climate Change and Facilitating Social Change*, edited by Susanne C. Moser and Lisa Dilling. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

- Ceccarelli, Leah. "Manufactured Scientific Controversy: Science, Rhetoric, and Public Debate." *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 14, no. 2 (2011): 195–228. doi:10.1353/rap.2010.0222.
- Banning, Marlia Elisabeth. "When Poststructural Theory and Contemporary Politics Collide—The Vexed Case of Global Warming." *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* 6, no. 3 (2009): 285–304.
- Whyte, Kyle Powys. "Justice Forward: Tribes, Climate Adaptation and Responsibility." In *Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples in the United States*, edited by Julie Koppel Maldonado, Benedict Colombi, and Rajul Pandya, 9–22. Springer International Publishing, 2013.
- McKibben, Bill. "It's Time to Stop Investing in the Fossil Fuel Industry." *The Guardian*, May 30, 2013. (Not on Canvas; see: <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/may/30/fossil-fuel-divestment-climate-change>)

September 16: Human-Nature Relationships

- Rogers, Richard A. "Overcoming the Objectification of Nature in Constitutive Theories: Toward a Transhuman, Materialist Theory of Communication." *Western Journal of Communication* 62, no. 3 (1998): 244–72.
- Milstein, Tema. "When Whales 'Speak for Themselves': Communication as a Mediating Force in Wildlife Tourism." *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture* 2, no. 2 (2008): 173–192.
- Sowards, Stacey K. "Identification Through Orangutans : Destabilizing the Nature/culture Dualism." *Ethics and the Environment* 11, no. 2 (n.d.): 45–61.
- Hawhee, Debra. "Toward a Bestial Rhetoric." *Philosophy and Rhetoric* 44, no. 1 (2011): 81–87.
- Schutten, Julie Kalil. "Chewing on the Grizzly Man: Getting to the Meat of the Matter." *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture* 2, no. 2 (2008): 193–211.
- Seeger, Natasha. "Play of Sniffication: Coyotes Sing in the Margins." *Philosophy and Rhetoric* 47, no. 2 (2014): 158–78.

September 23: Human-Nature Relationships (cont.)

- Abram, David. *The Spell of the Sensuous: Perception and Language in a More-Than-Human World*. 1st Vintage Books Ed. Vintage, 1997. (Not on Canvas)

September 30: Wilderness and National Parks

- Cronon, William. "The Trouble With Wilderness; or Getting Back to the Wrong Nature." In *Uncommon Ground: Rethinking the Human Place in Nature*, 69–90. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, 1996.
- Oravec, Christine. "Conservationism Vs. Preservationism: The 'public Interest' in the Hetch Hetchy Controversy." *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 70 (November 1984): 444–458.
- Senda-Cook, Samantha. "Rugged Practices: Embodying Authenticity in Outdoor Recreation." *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 98, no. 2 (2012): 129–152.

- Marafiotte, Tracy. "The American Dream: Technology, Tourism, and the Transformation of Wilderness." *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture* 2, no. 2 (2008): 154–172.
- DeLuca, Kevin Michael, and Anne Teresa Demo. "Imaging Nature: Watkins, Yosemite, and the Birth of Environmentalism." *Critical Studies in Media Communication* 17, no. 3 (2000): 241–260.

October 7: Environmental Justice

- Pezzullo, Phaedra C. *Toxic Tourism: Rhetorics of Pollution, Travel, and Environmental Justice*. 1st ed. University of Alabama Press, 2007. (Not on Canvas)

Paper Proposal Due

October 14: FALL BREAK- NO CLASS

October 21: Environmental Justice

- Nixon, Rob. *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2011 (Not on Canvas)

October 28: Energy Communication

- Endres, Danielle, Brian Cozen, Joshua Trey Barnett, Megan O'Byrne, and Tarla Rai Peterson. "Communicating Energy in a Climate of Crisis," *Communication Yearbook*, volume 40, in press.
- Feldpausch-Parker, Andrea M., and Tarla Rai Peterson. "Communicating the Science behind Carbon Sequestration: A Case Study of US Department of Energy and Regional Partnership Websites." *Environmental Communication* 9, no. 3 (July 3, 2015): 326–45.
- Maillé, Marie-Ève, and Johanne Saint-Charles. "Fuelling an Environmental Conflict through Information Diffusion Strategies." *Environmental Communication* 8, no. 3 (July 3, 2014): 305–25.
- Peeples, Jennifer, Pete Bsumek, Steve Schwarze, and Jen Schneider. "Industrial Apocalyptic: Neoliberalism, Coal, and the Burlesque Frame." *Rhetoric & Public Affairs* 17, no. 2 (2014): 227–53.
- Plec, Emily, and Mary Pettenger. "Greenwashing Consumption: The Didactic Framing of Exxonmobil's Energy Solutions." *Environmental Communication* 6, no. 4 (December 2012): 459–76.

November 4: Nuclearism

- Taylor, Bryan C., William J. Kinsella, Stephen P. Depoe, and Maribeth S. Metzler. "Nuclear Legacies: Communication, Controversy, and the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Production Complex." In *Communication Yearbook*, edited by Pamela J. Kalbfleisch, 29:363–409. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2009.
- Kinsella, William J., Dorothy Andreas, and Danielle Endres. "Communicating Nuclear Power: A Programmatic Review," *Communication Yearbook* 39, ed. Elisa Cohen (New York, NY: Routledge, 2015), 277–310.

- Yeo, Sara K., Michael A. Cacciatore, Dominique Brossard, Dietram A. Scheufele, Kristin Runge, Leona Y. Su, Jiyoung Kim, Michael Xenos, and Elizabeth A. Corley. "Partisan Amplification of Risk: American Perceptions of Nuclear Energy Risk in the Wake of the Fukushima Daiichi Disaster." *Energy Policy* 67 (April 2014): 727–36.
- Endres, Danielle. "From Wasteland to Waste Site: The Role of Discourse in Nuclear Power's Environmental Injustices." *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability* 14, no. 10 (2009): 917–937.
- Pezzullo, Phaedra C., and Stephen P. Depoe. "Everyday Life and Death in a Nuclear World." In *Public Modalities: Rhetoric, Culture, Media, and Public Life*, edited by Daniel C. Brouwer and Robert Asen, 85–108. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 2010.
- Cohn, Carol. "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals." *Within and Without: Women, Gender and Theory* 12, no. 4 (1987): 687–718.

November 11: Place & Space (Note: Class will not be held, but readings and reaction papers must be completed)

- Relph, Edward. "Sense of Place." In *Ten Geographic Ideas That Changed the World*, edited by Susan Hanson, 205–226. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1997.
- Phillips, Aaron T. "Eliding Extraction, Embracing Novelty: The Spatio-Temporal Configuration of Natural History." *Environmental Communication*, (2014): 1–16.
- Carbaugh, Donal, and Tovar Cerulli. "Cultural Discourses of Dwelling: Investigating Environmental Communication as a Place-Based Practice." *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture* 7, no. 1 (2013): 4–23.
- Schweizer, Sarah, Shawn Davis, and Jessica Leigh Thompson. "Changing the Conversation about Climate Change: A Theoretical Framework for Place-Based Climate Change Engagement." *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture* 7, no. 1 (2013): 42–62.
- Endres, Danielle, Samantha Senda-Cook, and Brian Cozen. "Not Just a Place to Park Your Car: Park(ing) as Spatial Argument." *Argumentation & Advocacy* 50, no. 3 (Winter 2014): 121–40.

November 18: No class- National Communication Association Convention

November 25: Indigenous Environmentalism

- Weaver, Jace. "Introduction: Notes From a Miner's Canary." In *Defending Mother Earth: Native American Perspectives on Environmental Justice*, edited by Jace Weaver, 1–28. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1996.
- Kretch III, Shepard. "Introduction." In *The Ecological Indian: Myth and History*, 15–28. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, 1999.
- Kretch III, Shepard. "Epilogue." In *The Ecological Indian: Myth and History*, 211–229. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Company, 1999.

- Carbaugh, Donal. “‘Just Listen’: ‘Listening’ and Landscape Among the Blackfeet.” *Western Journal of Communication* 63, no. 3 (1999): 250–270.
- Schmitt, Casey. “Invoking the Ecological Indian: Rhetoric, Culture, and the Environment.” In *Voice and Environmental Communication*, 66–87. New York, NY: Palgrave MacMillan, 2014.
- Whyte, Kyle. “Indigenous Environmental Movements and the Function of Governance Institutions.” In *Oxford Handbook of Environmental Political Theory*, edited by Teena Gabrielson, Cheryl Hall, John M. Meyer, and David Schlosberg, in press.

December 2: Controversy, Activism & Public Engagement

- Callister, Deborah Cox. “Land Community Participation: A New ‘Public’ Participation Model.” *Environmental Communication* 7, no. 4 (2013): 435–55.
- Senecah, Susan L. “The Trinity of Voice: The Role of Practical Theory in Planning and Evaluating the Effectiveness of Environmental Participatory Processes.” In *Communication and Public Participation in Environmental Decision Making*, edited by Stephen P. Depoe, John W. Delicath, and Marie-France Aepli Elsenbeer, 13–33. Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 2004.
- Pezzullo, Phaedra C. “Contextualizing Boycotts and Buycotts: The Impure Politics of Consumer-Based Advocacy in an Age of Global Ecological Crises.” *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies* 8, no. 2 (2011): 124.
- Schwarze, Steven. “Environmental Melodrama.” *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 92 (August 1, 2006): 239–61.
- Kinsella, William J. “Rearticulating Nuclear Power: Energy Activism and Contested Common Sense.” *Environmental Communication* 9, no. 3 (July 3, 2015): 346–66.
- Paliewicz, Nicholas S. “Taking It to the Streets: The Rhetorical Mobility of Expert Arguments in Public Settings.” *Argumentation & Advocacy* 51, no. 1 (Summer 2014): 42–57.

December 9: In-Class Paper Presentations

December 16: Final Papers Due by 11:59pm