

Portland State University
Environmental and Ecological Literacy - ESM 330

Course Outline

Fall 2019

Monday and Wednesday, 8:15 - 10:05, SRTC B1-82

Instructor: Ms. Cherie Mosher, PhD Candidate

Email: cmosher@pdx.edu

Office: SRTC 206

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:15 - 12:15 or by appointment

Description

Explore concepts and ideas that shape our understanding of the interactions between humans and the rest of the world. Explore big questions and controversies in environmental thought. Discuss what it means to be environmentally literate in the 21st century. Apply an understanding of diverse views of human/environment interactions to the analysis of complex environmental issues.

Text and Readings

1. Schlottmann, C., D. Jamieson, C. Jerolmack, and A. Rademacher. 2017. Environment and Society, A Reader. New York University Press, New York.
2. Savoy, L. 2015. Trace. Counterpoint Press, Berkeley, California.

Required & available at the PSU bookstore

3. Additional readings will be available as the course progresses.

Course Assessment

Table 1. Breakdown of assessments for ESM 330; fall of 2019.
Percent per assessment is of the total mark for the semester.

Assessment	Percent of total
Discussions (10)	30%
Environmental Identity Exercise (2)	15%
Reflection Essays (2)	30%
Final Project	25%

Assessments

In-class discussions: On Wednesdays, the instructor will provide a topic and we will have 30-minute discussions (may be longer depending on the discussion). There will be one to two guiding questions to start the discussion, and students will work in groups. We will use improv rules ("yes, and..."). A rubric will be provided in the Assignments folder on D2L, and an example run-through will be on the first Wednesday of the course.

Environmental identity exercises: We will complete two activities to explore our own environmental identities. These activities will happen primarily in class, with short write-ups to be completed out of class. A rubric will be posted in the Assignments folder on D2L.

Reflection essays: You will be making an argument on a topic covered in the unit and use assigned readings and additional materials to support your argument. Essays will be three to four pages long and submitted through D2L. A rubric will be provided in the Assignments folder on D2L.

Final issue analysis project: For this assignment, you will work in groups or alone, and will research an environmental or ecological issue. Based on your research, and drawing on readings from class, you will present your work. Suggestions for issues will be given in class. You will give a presentation on your issue and analysis during the final exam period, dependent on how you decide to present the material. A short reflection (one to two pages) will be submitted through D2L during the final exam week. A rubric will be posted in the Assignments folder on D2L.

Course Policies and Responsibilities

In-class discussions: Discussions will be a large component of this course. In order to have discussions that are thoughtful, provocative, and promote learning, all participants must work to maintain a safe and inclusive space. Please follow the guidelines set and agreed upon in class.

Late and missed work policy: For reflection essays, environmental identity exercises, and the project (with reflection), there will be a 10% point deduction for each day late (weekends count as 1 day). You must attend class to complete and receive credit for in-class discussions and the in-class portion of environmental identity exercises. Make-ups and extensions will be offered for illnesses and emergencies, or if prior arrangements are made.

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Illness policy: Please don't come to class sick. Contact the instructor before class, or as soon as possible by email. For an illness resulting in more than 2 missed class periods, please provide a doctor's note or other documentation to avoid late/missed work penalties.

Access and inclusion for students with disabilities: If any aspects of instruction or course design result in barriers to your inclusion or learning, please notify me. I am happy to work with you to ensure that your full participation in this course is possible. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides reasonable accommodations for students who encounter barriers in the learning environment. If you already have accommodations from the DRC, please contact me to make sure I have received a faculty notification letter and discuss your accommodation.

Student Conduct: Students are expected to adhere to the PSU Code of Student Conduct: <https://www.pdx.edu/dos/psu-student-code-conduct>.

Table 2. *Tentative* schedule of the topics to be covered in ESM 330; fall semester of 2019. Text chapters relate to Schlottmann et al. (2017) and should be read prior to the class.

Dates	Topics	Readings and Due Dates
Sept. 30	Course introduction	
History of environmentalism by those who wrote the history		
Oct. 2	History of environmentalism < Discussion 1: Intro to the discussions >	D2L*
Oct. 7	History of environmentalism	Ch. 7, 28, D2L*
Oct. 9	Pinchot and Muir < Discussion 2: Conservation and preservation >	Ch. 8, D2L*
Oct. 14	Combining research with environmentalism < Go over rubric for unit reflection essay >	Ch. 9, D2L*, Begin Trace
Humans and Nature		
Oct. 16	Who is in charge? < Discussion 3: The Anthropocene and the future >	Ch. 1, 4, Trace
Oct. 21	Who is in charge? < Go over final project >	Ch. 2, 3, Trace
Oct. 23	Who is in charge? < Discussion 4: Did Aldo Leopold consider me? >	Trace, Ch. 7, D2L*
Oct. 28	Environmental Identity < Environmental Identity 1 >	D2L* Reflection Essay Due (1)

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Environmental Movements		
Oct. 30	The trouble with wilderness < Discussion 5: What counts as environment? >	Ch. 11, 12, 13 E.I. Write Up Due (1)
Nov. 4	The commons < Work on final project >	Ch. 22, 23
Nov. 6	Environmental justice < Discussion 6: Did Aldo Leopold consider me? >	Ch. 29, 30, 31
Nov. 11	HOLIDAY - NO CLASS	
Nov. 13	Environmental justice < Discussion 7: The green new deal >	Ch. 32, D2L*
Nov. 18	Issues and controversies < Environmental Identity 2 >	Ch. 34, 36
Nov. 20	Issues and controversies < Discussion 8: Overpopulation as a topic? >	Ch. 37, 38, D2L* E.I. Write Up Due (2)
Uncharted Territory		
Nov. 25	HIDDEN < Work on final project >	TBD
Nov. 27	HIDDEN < Discussion 9: TBD >	TBD
Dec. 2	HIDDEN < Work on final project >	TBD
Dec. 4	HIDDEN < Discussion 10: TBD >	TBD Reflection Essay Due (2)
Exam Time		

* Additional reading material that will be posted on D2L.