

Carleton University*
Winter 2024 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

EACH 4000
Environmental & Climate Change Humanities Seminar
Re-Orientations: Decolonial/Environmental/Multi-Species/Climate Humanities

Prerequisite: EACH 2000 and third year standing

Mondays 2:35-2:25pm
In-person, not suitable for online students

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***Situated on the traditional, unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Peoples**

******This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change. A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term.******

Course Description: This course is curated to support students who are curious about learning from decolonial, environmental, multi-species, energy, and climate change humanities perspectives. These are adjacent but not identical, sometimes in tension, and sometimes incommensurable lenses. Across the term, students will collaboratively investigate a number of EACH sub-topics. These will include approaches to the environmental humanities, and the anthropocene and climate crisis; environmental movement tensions with Indigenous orientations to lands/waters relationships and responsibilities; environmental humanities' multi-species studies adjacent to and in tension with relational kinship approaches; and energy/petro humanities approaches adjacent to Indigenous land and water protection stands against pipelines and extraction industries. Across the semester, we will engage different creative forms and genres of environmental and climate representation—visual poetry, graphic novel, plays, a novel, non-fiction essay, oral storywork, and stop-motion animation. These will invite enquiry into what modes and forms best invite meaningful engagement with the urgent environmental and climate justice questions of our times. In addition to readings & viewings, we will identify several representatives of organizations and/or knowledge holders whom we wish to think and learn experientially with and invite to our class. These may be drawn from campus, local, national environmental, climate, and Indigenous organizations such as Carleton Climate Commons, Carleton Climate Response Committee, Ecology Ottawa, Ottawa South Community Association Enviro Crew, Indigenous Climate Action, Climate Justice Ottawa, Ottawa Riverkeeper, Rideau Watershed Conservation Authority, and Kitigan Zibi Forest Guardians. Several brainstorming and maker workshops will be built into class time to allow collaborative

development of one or several research-informed, community-engaged public humanities projects focused on environmental and climate concerns.

Climate Statement: We are witnessing the effects of climate change escalate rapidly, changing the character of the world around us. We recognize that climate change disruptions impact peoples and multi-species worlds unevenly across many planetary regions, territories, and communities due to racialized capitalism and extractive colonialism. In this class, we will of necessity consider these impacts as part of the larger project of sharing and creating knowledge. Committed to learning through conversation, reading, inquiry, and reflection, we will undertake to using these methods to grapple together with the physical, emotional, economic, and social implications of unfolding climate destabilization and disruption.

Books for Purchase:

Rita Wong. *Perpetual* (Nightwood, 2015).

Shalan Joudry (Mi'kmaq). *Elapultiek (We Are Looking Towards)*. (Pottersfield, 2019).

Octavia Butler. *Parable of the Sower*. (Grand Central Publishing, 1993/2019).

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson (Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg.) *A Short History of the Blockade: Giant Beavers, Diplomacy, and Nishnaabewin* (U of Alberta, 2021).

Assignments:

Attendance/Participation:	10%
2 Discussion Forum Reading Posts:	20%
Short Seminar: Article/Concept/Creative Text Discussion:	20%
Discussion forum Post: Herbaria Contribution journal:	10%
Collaboratory Co-Authored Contribution Proposal:	5%
Public Facing Research and Education Project:	30%
Self-Contribution/Group Assessment	5%