

Carleton University*
Department of English
Winter 2025 Preliminary Course Outline

EACH 4000: Environmental & Climate Change Humanities Seminar
Re-Orientations: Decolonial/Environmental/Multi-Species/Climate Humanities
Prerequisites: EACH 2000 and third year standing

Prof. Brenda Vellino
Email: Brenda.vellino@carleton.ca
Office Hours: online, by appointment

***Situated on the traditional, unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabe 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. Across the term, students will collaboratively investigate a number of EACH sub-topics. These will include approaches to the environmental humanities, the anthropocene, and climate crisis; environmental movement tensions with Indigenous orientations to lands/waters relationships and responsibilities; environmental humanities' multi-species studies adjacent to relational kinship approaches; and Energy Humanities approaches adjacent to Indigenous land and water protection stances against pipelines and extraction industries. We will engage these topics through different creative forms and genres of environmental and climate representation—visual poetry, graphic novel, speculative fiction, non-fiction essays, oral storywork, documentary theatre, 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 have several opportunities for experiential learning with guest facilitators. Several brainstorming and maker's 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. The maker's element of the course will involve hands-on workshops in the Book Arts lab in the library.

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 using these methods to grapple together with the physical, emotional, economic, and social implications of unfolding climate destabilization and disruption.

Books for Purchase: Blacksquirrel Books (Bank St. near Sunnyside)

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

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:	20%
3 out of 4 Discussion Forum Reading Posts:	15%
Short Seminar: Article/Concept/Creative Text Discussion:	20%
Collaboratory Co-Authored Contribution Proposal:	5%
Public Facing Research and Education Project:	35%
Self-Contribution/Group Assessment	5%