

ENST 4000 – SEMINAR IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES  
THE POLITICS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



“Airshow” by Fred Herzog, 1968 © Equinox Gallery, Vancouver.

“But where the danger is, also grows the saving power.”- Friedrich Hölderlin, 1803

“The future is unwritten.” – Joe Strummer, 2007

**Instructor:** Dr. David Hugill, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, B448 Loeb Building,  
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**Class Meetings:** Tuesdays, 11:35-2:25, Mackenzie Building 4332

**Office Hours:** Mondays, 1:00-3:00 PM or by appointment

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

ENST 4000 is an advanced seminar designed to give you a chance to build upon and apply the analytical skills and disciplinary expertise that you have acquired throughout the course of your university career. In a general sense, our aim this semester is to think critically about how societal institutions respond to environmental concerns, how various stakeholders understand the environment, and how environmental priorities may be implemented in social, political and economic decision-making. To achieve this objective, our work will take a deep analytical dive into the politics of climate change. Starting from the premise that contemporary climate struggles are profoundly multi-dimensional, we will survey a diverse range of social, economic, and cultural questions in an effort to better understand their complexity.

What to expect from our work this semester:

- **Stimulating debate:** Please come to class prepared to discuss and debate the issues that come up in the readings. My intention is to create a space where ideas are vigorously contested, so your respectful dissent is always welcome.
- **Challenging material:** The weekly readings (generally about 50-75 pages in length) are often challenging. Where it is possible to do so, I encourage you to start reading at least a few days in advance of the seminar.
- **Timely feedback:** I will do my best to return all assignments within two weeks of submission at the latest.

## REQUIRED TEXTS

The vast majority of the required texts are available online (via cuLearn) and/or at the MacOdrum Library reserve desk. I strongly recommend purchasing physical copies of two course texts, both of which are available under our course number (ENST 4000) at Octopus Books in the Glebe (116 Third Avenue, p: 613-233-2589, e: [octopus@octopusbooks.ca](mailto:octopus@octopusbooks.ca)). They are:

1. Naomi Klein (2014) *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate* (Vintage Canada).
2. Cormac McCarthy (2007), *The Road*, (Vintage).

Used copies of both books are also available for purchase online (through [abebooks.com](http://abebooks.com), for example).

## COURSE CALENDAR

<b>Week 1:</b> January 9, 2018	
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Introductory discussion of course policies; no required readings</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2:</b> January 16, 2018 <b>**Deadline: Intellectual biography assignment due by Sunday January 14<sup>th</sup> at noon**</b>	
The Political Impasse	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Naomi Klein (2014), “One Way or Another, Everything Changes” in <i>This Changes Everything</i>, (Introduction, pp. 1-28)</li> <li>○ Erik Swyngedouw (2010), “Apocalypse Forever? Post-Political Populism and the Specter of Climate Change” in <i>Theory, Culture &amp; Society</i> 272(2-3), pp. 213-232.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3:</b> January 23, 2018 <b>**Deadline: Response Paper 1 (group A) due**</b>	
Culture War	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Naomi Klein (2014), “The Right is Right: The Revolutionary Power of Climate Change,” in <i>This Changes Everything</i>, (Chapter 1, pp. 31-63)</li> <li>○ Peter Jacques, Riley Dunlap and Mark Freeman (2008), “The Organisation of Denial: Conservative Think Tanks and Environmental Scepticism,” <i>Environmental Politics</i> 17(3), pp. 349-385.</li> <li>○ Jane Mayer (2017), “In the Withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement, the Koch Brothers’ Campaign Becomes Overt,” in <i>The New Yorker</i>, online at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/yayyyxao">https://tinyurl.com/yayyyxao</a></li> <li>○ Chanda Prescod-Weinstein, “We are Scientists Against a Fascist Government,” on <i>The Establishment</i>, online at: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/y78xu4rr">https://tinyurl.com/y78xu4rr</a></li> </ul>
<b>Week 4:</b> January 30, 2018 <b>**Deadline: Response Paper 1 (group B) due **</b>	
Market Fundamentalism	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Naomi Klein (2014), “Hot Money: How Free Market Fundamentalism Helped Overheat the Planet,” (Chapter 2, pp. 64-96)</li> <li>○ David Harvey (2005), “Freedom’s Just Another Word” in <i>A Brief History of Neoliberalism</i> (Chapter 1, pp. 5-38)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benjamin Fong (2017), "The Climate Crisis? It's Capitalism, Stupid" in <i>The New York Times</i>, online at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/y7mpmp2x">https://tinyurl.com/y7mpmp2x</a></li> </ul>
<b>Week 5: February 6, 2018</b> <b>**Deadline: Response Paper 2 (group A) due **</b>	
Unevenness and Displacement	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Betsy Hartmann (2010), "Rethinking Climate Refugees and Climate Conflict: Rhetoric, Reality and the Politics of Policy Discourse," <i>Journal of International Development</i> 22 (2), pp. 233-246.</li> <li>Naomi Klein (2016), "Let them Drown: The Violence of Othering in a Warming World," <i>London Review of Books</i>, 38(11): 11-14, online at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/ybgm2lla">https://tinyurl.com/ybgm2lla</a></li> <li>Michael Shear and Julie Hirschfeld Davis (2017), "Stoking Fears, Trump Defied Bureaucracy to Advance Immigration Agenda" in <i>The New York Times</i>, online at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/y98y6kxr">https://tinyurl.com/y98y6kxr</a></li> </ul>
<b>Week 6: February 13, 2018</b> <b>**Deadline: Response Paper 2 (group B) due **</b>	
Nationalism and Internationalism	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul Kingsnorth (2017), "The Lie of the Land: Does Environmentalism have a future in the Age of Trump?" in <i>The Guardian</i>, online at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/mlhjyc">https://tinyurl.com/mlhjyc</a></li> <li>Out of the Woods Collective (2017), "A Hostile Environment," in <i>Society and Space</i> (blog), online at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/yckbduju">https://tinyurl.com/yckbduju</a></li> <li>Doreen Massey (2011), "A Counterhegemonic Relationality of Place," In Eugene McCann and Kevin Ward, <i>Mobile Urbanism: Cities and Policymaking in the Global Age</i>, pp. 1-14.</li> </ul>
<b>Reading Break - February 19-23</b>	
<b>Week 7: February 27, 2018</b> <b>**Deadline: Reflection Paper due**</b>	
Down a Dark Road	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cormac McCarthy (2007), <i>The Road</i> (2007) {full text}.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8: March 6, 2018</b>	
Film Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The Road</i> (2009); screened in class.</li> </ul>

<b>Week 9:</b> March 13, 2018	
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Student presentations on final paper topic (5 minutes max)</li> </ul>
<b>Week 10:</b> March 20, 2018	
Anthropocene	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ J. Stromberg (2013), “What is the Anthropocene and are we in it?,” in <i>Smithsonian Magazine</i>, online at <a href="http://tinyurl.com/zakxr6q">http://tinyurl.com/zakxr6q</a></li> <li>○ Marco Armiero and Massimo De Angelis (2017), “Anthropocene: Victims, Narrators, and Revolutionaries,” <i>South Atlantic Quarterly</i> 116(2), pp. 345-362.</li> <li>○ J.K. Gibson Graham and G Roelvik (2009), “An Economic Ethics for the Anthropocene,” <i>Antipode</i> 41(1), pp. 320-346.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 11:</b> March 27, 2018 <b>**Deadline: Final Paper Proposal due**</b>	
Imagination	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mark Fisher (2009), “It’s easier to imagine the end of the world than the end of capitalism” in <i>Capitalist Realism: Is there No Alternative?</i> (chapter 1, pp. 1-11)</li> <li>○ Jodi Dean (2016), “The Anamorphic Politics of Climate Change,” in <i>e-flux</i>, online at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/yc2lqqgw">https://tinyurl.com/yc2lqqgw</a></li> <li>○ Neil Smith (2010), “The Revolutionary Imperative,” <i>Antipode</i> 41(1), pp 50-65.</li> </ul>
<b>Week 12:</b> April 3, 2018	
Struggle	<p>Required Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mike Davis (2010), “Who Will Build the Ark?” in <i>New Left Review</i> 61, pp. 29-46.</li> <li>○ Naomi Klein (2014), “You and What Army? Indigenous Rights and the Power of Keeping our Word” in <i>This Changes Everything</i> (Chapter 11, pp. 267-387)</li> </ul>
<b>**Deadline: Final Research Paper must be uploaded by 4PM on April 11<sup>th</sup></b>	

## EVALUATION

Assignment	Weight	Short Description
Participation	10%	Based on attendance and active classroom participation.
Intellectual Biography	5%	A short introductory description of who you are and how you ended up here; must be uploaded by noon on Sunday January 14.
Reading Quizzes	10%	Five in-class pop quizzes on weekly readings (worth 2.5 % each after your worst score is dropped); these should be quite easy if you've done the readings.
Response Paper 1	10%	A short response paper (800-1000 words) outlining key points of debate/connection in the assigned readings for weeks 3 or 4; must be uploaded before class on deadline day.
Response Paper 2	10%	A short response paper (800-1000 words) outlining key points of debate/connection in the assigned readings for weeks 5 or 6; must be uploaded before class on deadline day.
Reflection Paper	20%	A mid-length reflection paper (1800-2000 words) on Cormac McCarthy's <i>The Road</i> .
Final Research Paper Presentation	5%	A five minute in-class presentation that outlines the <i>argument</i> of your final research paper; all presentations are scheduled for March 13 <sup>th</sup> ; I will reply with feedback by Sunday March 18 <sup>th</sup> (at the latest).
Final Research Paper Proposal	10%	A 200 word abstract outlining what you plan to argue and an annotated bibliography that outlines at least eight relevant academic resources; must be uploaded before class on March 27 <sup>th</sup> .
Final Research Paper	20%	

		A 2800-3500 word research paper on any of the eight weekly topics discussed this semester (see guidelines in assignment sheet on cuLearn).
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Please note:

- All assignments must follow the style guidelines outline of the Chicago Manual of Style (16<sup>th</sup> edition or later); citations can be formatted in either the “notes and bibliography” or “author-date” style, so long as one of these options is used consistently throughout the document; there is a quick Chicago-style citation guide available here: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html)
- All assignments will be assessed on the overall quality of presentation, including citation format, spelling, grammar, coherence of argument, etc.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

### ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Carleton University demands academic integrity from all its members. The Academic Integrity Policy (available at <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity>) governs the academic behaviour of students. Academic Integrity is defined as:

***“A commitment even in the face of adversity to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility.” – Centre for Academic Integrity (1999)***

Academic dishonesty, in whatever form, is destructive to the values of the university, and risks harming the university’s reputation as place of learning and innovation. Furthermore, it is unfair and discouraging to those students who pursue their studies honestly.

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor

suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

### ACADEMIC ACCOMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

**Religious obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).