

PHIL 250-02: ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY

University of North Texas

Fall 2022

Mon/Wed/Fri 11:00 A.M - 11:50 A.M

Instructor: Sumshot Khular Email: Sumshot.Khular@unt.edu, SumshotKhular@my.unt.edu

Phone: 940-595-2990

OFFICE HOURS via zoom M/W 4-5 p.m. or by appointment by email.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory undergraduate course in environmental philosophy to explore philosophical questions concerning the ethical, ecological, economic, political, and cultural dimensions of global contemporary environmental issues, i.e., public land management, water, energy, biodiversity, and global climate change. This course focuses on developing fundamental understanding of the systems of the natural world and the relationships and interactions between the living and non-living environment to think creatively in moving towards more sustainable futures.

COURSE STRUCTURE: This course takes place in Person Your interaction with me and with your fellow students will primarily takes place in Class.

COURSE MATERIALS REQUIRED /TEXTS There are no required physical texts for this course. Everything one will need will be scanned and uploaded to Canvas under "Readings" or are available via the UNT library course reserves. Links for documentaries will be provided.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Analyze key concepts and underlying assumptions associated with contemporary environmental issues.
- Connect environmental issues with social and political concerns.
- Encourage active participation, philosophical discussion, and mindful reflection in order to enable us to engage with not only the scientific, but also, ethical, ecological, economic, political, and cultural concepts and principles governing major environmental issues and problems.
- Critically analyze the ways in which values, worldviews, and systems influence how one perceives and interacts with the world, and possible actions and solutions for addressing environmental issues.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Identify and explain relationships and disconnects between humans and "the environment".
- Analyze major environmental problems and political dynamics, including causes and consequences.
- Evaluate possible remedies to environmental problems, including their pros and cons.
- Develop an appreciation and skill for critical thinking, philosophical discussion, and debate.
- Develop respectful dialogue in the presence of individuals who may hold differing worldviews.

Final Grades will be based on the A-F scale

A =90-100%

B =80-89%

C =70-79%,

D =60-69%,

F =59% and below.

Assignments

Participation in the following exercises must be on time, as I will be reporting the results back to the class.

Attendance 10%

There will be regular attendance taken for this class. Approximately five to ten minutes after the beginning of class, there will be an attendance sheet passed around. It will require your initials next to your name for the appropriate day. You are allowed three (3) unexcused absences for any reason. Any absences past these three will require appropriate documentation in order to be considered "excused." Each additional unexcused absence past these initial three will result in a 10% loss of attendance grade for each additional missed day. For example, if you have six total unexcused absences, this will make your attendance grade for this course a 70%.

Quizzes 20%

There are 10 short quizzes. These consist of multiple choice and true/false questions directly related to the readings. They are designed to keep you engaged and on track, not to trick you. You are welcome to consult the readings and other course materials as you take the quizzes, questions pertaining to the readings, and videos.

Discussions 30%

There are 10 discussion post. These are designed to get you thinking and chatting with one another about issues pertaining to the material in each module. For each discussion, participation requires a minimum of an original post and two responses. You will find the prompts and more details about each discussion's requirements in Canvas.

Mid Term Paper 10%

Details will be provided in Canvas

Final Paper 30%

Details will be provided in Canvas.

LATE POLICY

Each assignment has a clearly marked due date. Late work will only be accepted with prior permission from the instructor. If you are going to miss a deadline for reasons beyond your control, please email me as soon as possible.

COVID-19 IMPACT ON DUE DATES/DEADLINES

I recognize that we are all working in less-than-ideal circumstances and often with intensified non academic responsibilities. Please contact me if you are unable to make assignment deadlines due to a related issue regarding COVID-19. It is important that you communicate with me prior to missing deadlines so that we can work out the best path forward. If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. Please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While completing work on time is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

NETIQUETTE

You are expected to maintain reasonable etiquette in your online interactions. Please remember to remain respectful of your instructor, TAs and fellow classmates. More info here:

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with UNT's policy on Academic Integrity: <https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003>. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in academic penalties or sanctions ranging from failing an assignment to expulsion from the University.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. If you require accommodations for disabilities, please register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) and communicate with the instructor as soon as possible. For additional information see the ODA website at www.disability.unt.edu

EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please refer to CANVAS for contingency plans for covering course materials.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND DUE DATES:

WEEK 1 Start Here,

Due Dates and Readings

08-29-22 Monday Self Introduction & Introduction of the Syllabus

08-31-22 Wednesday Local Environment

WATCH Film: KERA Living with the Trinity

<https://www.pbs.org/video/living-with-the-trinity-qkw8v3/>

09-01-22 Friday Watershed class with Marti Lathrop and Brian Wheeler- Elm Fork Education Center, UNT.

09-03-22 Friday Discussion Post due on Saturday 2nd September at 11.59 p.m.

09-02-22 Friday 2 Replies to peers due.

09-03-22 Saturday QUIZ 1 Local Environment, Yellowstone Model

Reading:

Week2 Environment, Nature & Wilderness

09-5-22 Mon LABOR DAY HOLIDAY NO CLASSES

09-07-22 Wed Finney, Carolyn. 2014. "Bamboozled," Pp. 21-31 in Black Faces, White Spaces: Rethinking the Relationship of African Americans to the Great Outdoors. UNC Press.

09-7-22 Fri Oreskes, Naomi and Erik M. Conway. 2013. "The Collapse of Western Civilization: A View from the Future." Daedalus 142(1): 40-58.

09-09-22 Fri Watch "Out of Deepwood" <https://vimeo.com/102130995>
"Out of Deepwood" Environmental justice documentary: illegal dumping in an African American neighborhood, reclaimed for Audubon Center in Trinity Forest (23 min).

09-08-22 Thu Post your Discussion (Initial).

09-09-22 Fri Discussion 2 Replies to your peers

09-10-22 Sun QUIZ 2 Environment, Nature & Wilderness

Week 3 Water

Readings

09-12-22 Mon Klaver, Irene J. 2015. "Accidental Wildness on a Detention Pond," Antennae, The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture, #33, Autumn 2015, 45-58.

09-14-22 Wed Yazzie, Melanie K, and Cutcha Risling Baldy. 2018. "Introduction: Indigenous peoples and the politics of water." Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society 7, no. 1:

09-16-22 Fri WATCH REVOLT IN ANATOLIA Film: Revolt in Anatolia <https://vimeo.com/21679494>
In order to build a vast hydroelectric power network Turkey is rerouting countless rivers, devastating ways of life in the rural regions of Anatolia.

09-15--22 Thu Post your Discussion(Initial).
 09-16-22 Fri Discussion 2 Replies
09-17-22 Sat QUIZ 3 Revolt in Anatolia

Week 4 Environmental Justice & Water

Readings

09-19-22 Mon Shiva, Vandana. 2015. "Soil, Not Oil," Pp. 91-126 in Soil Not Oil: Environmental Justice in an Age of Climate Crisis. North Atlantic Books.

09-21-22 Wed Johnston, Barbara Rose. 2011. "Water, Culture, Power: Hydrodevelopment Dynamics," Ch 4.1, pp. 295-317 in Johnston, R. B., Klaver, I. J., Castillo-Ramos, A., Strang, M., Niles, N. & Hiwasaki, L. Eds. Water, cultural diversity & global environmental change: Emerging trends, sustainable futures? Jakarta: UNESCO International Hydrological Programme and The Hague: Springer Press.

09-23-22 Fri Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Delta, Bangladesh and India: A Transnational MegaDelta. <https://india.mongabay.com/2020/03/ganges-brahmaputra-meghna-delta-in-peril-due-to-sea-level-rise-says-study/>
 Watch Sinking Cities (2018) Tokyo (55 min) <https://www.pbs.org/video/sinking-cities-tokyo-sg5m7t/> (Links to an external site.)
 Tokyo is looking for new ways to fight back against rising waters. Typhoons, tsunamis, earthquakes, and sinking neighborhoods threaten one of the world's most populous cities, and the economic engine of Japan, with some of the world's largest problems.

09-22-22 Thu Post your Discussion (Initial)
 09-23-22 Fri Discussion 2 Replies to your peers
08-25-22 Sun QUIZ 4 Living with the Trinity

Week 5

09-26-22 Mon Settler Colonialism

Readings

09-26-22 Mon Whyte, Kyle. 2018. "Settler Colonialism, Ecology, and Environmental Injustice." Environment and Society Advances in Research. Special Issue Indigenous Resurgence, Decolonization, and Movements for Environmental Justice. Jaskiran Dhillon (Ed.). Vol.9. pp. 125-144.

09-28-22 Wed Whyte-Settler-Col-Ecology-EJ.pdf 02/25/22
<https://www.vice.com/en/article/gyajj4/who-is-a-settler-according-to-indigenous-and-black-scholars>

09-30-22 Fri Watch Trail of Tears <https://vimeo.com/93161013>

09-29-22 Thu Post your Discussion
 09-30-22 Fri Discussion 2 Replies
10-02-22 Sun QUIZ 5 Settler Colonialism

WEEK 6 Plastic Pollution

Readings

10-05-22 Mon Maniates, Michael. 2002. "Individualization: Plant a Tree, Buy a Bike, Save the World?" Pp. 43-66 in Thomas Prince et al (Eds.) Confronting Consumption. MIT Press. 03/02/22 Plastic Pollution
<https://www.plasticpollutioncoalition.org/blog/2018/10/4/us-plastic-recycling-rate-projected-to-drop-to-44-in-2018>

10-07-22 Wed The Story of Bottled water <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Se12y9hSOM0>

10-09-22 Fri Watch: <https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-plastic-animation/>

10-08-22 Sat **Reflection Paper- My Day in Plastic Details on Canvas**

10-09-22 Sun QUIZ 6 Plastic Pollution

WEEK 7 CLIMATE JUSTICE

Readings

10-10-22 Mon Shiva, Vandana, and J. Bandyopadhyay, *The Evolution, Structure, and Impact of the Chipko Movement* by, pp. 133-142.

10-12-22 Wed Sand Mining and its impacts on the Environment in India. Sand, a natural resource that seems abundant and often ignored is the second most extracted one, just after water. Excess extraction of sand from lakes, riverbeds, deltas and shores has destroyed habitats, changed the course of rivers, eroded banks, and swallowed up villages in India and worldwide. <https://india.mongabay.com/2021/05/video-sand-mining-and-how-it-erodes-lives-and-the-environment/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q9wQ-Th35Mg&t=337s>

10-14-22 Fri **WATCH: *Before the Flood*, 2016, Directed by Fisher Stevens, National Geographic.**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbEnOYtsXHA>

10-14-22 Fri Discussion Post

10-16-22 Sun Two Replies to your peers

10-16-22 Sun **Quiz 7 "*Before the Flood*"**

MIDTERM PAPER: Due SATURDAY, October 16th before 11:59pm.

WEEK 8 CLIMATE – SUSTAINABILITY

10-17-22 Mon Alaimo, Stacy. 2012. "Sustainable This, Sustainable That: New Materialisms, Posthumanisms and Unknown Futures." *PMLA* 127(3): 558-564.

10-19-21 Wed World Commission on Environment and Development. (1987). *Our Common Future*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

10-21-22 Fri WATCH *Sinking Cities* (2018) Tokyo (55 min) <https://www.pbs.org/video/sinking-cities-tokyo-sg5m7t/>
Tokyo is looking for new ways to fight back against rising waters. Typhoons, tsunamis, earthquakes, and sinking neighborhoods threaten one of the world's most populous cities, and the economic engine of Japan, with some of the world's largest problems

10-23-22 **QUIZ 8 Climate – Sustainability**

WEEK 9 CLIMATE – GREEN ENERGY

Readings

10-24-22 Mon Zehner, Ozzie. 2012. "Solar Cells and other Fairy Tales" AND "The Alternative Energy Fetish." Pp. 3-30 and 149-170 in *Green Illusions: the dirty secrets of green energy and the future of environmentalism*.

10-26-22 Wed Zehner, Ozzie. 2012. "The Alternative Energy Fetish," pp 149-170 (second chapter).

10-28-22 Fri **Group Presentation**

WEEK 10 CLIMATE- ANTHROPOCENE

Readings

10-31-22 Mon Crist, Eileen. 2013. "On the Poverty of Our Nomenclature." *Environmental Humanities* 3: 129-147.

11.02-22-Wed **WATCH BERTA DIDN'T DIE, SHE MULTIPLIED! (10 Min)**
<https://vimeo.com/242900355>

In 2014 the hydroelectric Company D.E.S.A. tried to dam the Qualarque River, Honduras. Honduras, one of the most dangerous countries in the world to be a land defender, Berta Cáceres' death (March 2016 assassinated) has not silenced the many campesinxs fighting for justice and Indigenous Sovereignty. They mourn Berta's assassination with powerful chants of 'Berta Didn't Die, She Multiplied!' (10 min).

11-04-22 Fri Group Presentation

11-06-22 Sun QUIZ 10 Climate – Anthropocene

WEEK 11 GENDER & FOOD POLITICS

Readings

11-07-22 Mon Shiva, V. (2009). Women and the Gendered Politics of Food. Philosophical Topics, 37(2), 17-32.

11-09-22 Wed Future of Food: Dictatorship or Democracy? By Dr. Vandana Shiva
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COV-fWlfWAo>

11-11-22 Fri Conitnue watching documentary

11.13.22 Sun QUIZ 11 Gender & Food Politics

WEEK 12 COLONIZATION & INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Readings

11-14-22 Mon Yazzie, Melanie K, and Cutcha Risling Baldy. 2018. "Introduction: Indigenous peoples and the politics of water." Decolonization: Indigeneity, Education & Society 7, no. 1: 1-18.

11-16-22 Wed Dhillon, Jaskiran. 2017. "What Standing Rock Teaches us about Environmental Justice." The Social Sciences Research Council.
<https://items.ssrc.org/author/jaskiran-dhillon/>

11-18-22 Fri Watch Documetary

WEEK13 COLONIALISM & ENVIRONMENTAL INJUSTICE

Readings

11-21-22 Mon Whyte Kyle-2020-Update-Dakota-Access-Pipeline-US-Colonialism. 2020-Update-Dakota-Access-Pipeline-US-Colonialism.pdf (msu.edu)
 WATCH -What Standing Rock Teaches Us About Environmental Justice – Items (ssrc.org)

11-23-22 NO CLASS-THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

24-25 November THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WEEK 14 MINING & LOCAL INITIATIVES

Readings

11-28-22 Mon Mining Drives Extensive Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon by Laura J. Sonter et al. Mining Industry in South America Threatens Indigenous Communities
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAZAKPUQMw0>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdTABgPQuNI>

11-30-22Wed Maathai, Wangari. 2007. "Foresters Without Diplomas." Chapter 6 in Unbowed: A Memoir. Anchor. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Lc_dIVrg5M

12-02-22 Fri Watch Local initiatives documentary

12-05-22 Monday & 12-07-22 Wednesday RECAP

12-09-22 Friday READING DAY NO CLASS

FINAL PAPER DUE 10 December 2022. Details on Canvas.