

ENGL-3707H-A: Literature and Globalization 2020S - Online

Instructor

Instructor: Brent Bellamy

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Phone Number: NA

Office: NA

Office Hours: By Appointment

Meeting Times

Asynchronous. Unless otherwise scheduled all coursework can be scheduled and undertaken on the student's own agenda.

Co-instructors and Teaching Assistants:

N/A

Department

Academic Administrative Assistant: Patricia Heffernan

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Description

In this course we will be concerned with literature and theory that explores the political, economic, cultural, and existential effects of globalization through the lens of energy. The course is not intended, in any way, as a literary history of world

literature; while we will touch on works from both the colonial and postcolonial eras, our focus will be primarily on contemporary texts and the ways in which they confront the ontological and epistemological challenges of an unevenly-powered, fully energized and globalized world.

Our primary objective in this course is to introduce you to an energy humanities theoretical approach to a variety of literary- and genre-focused authors writing on the problem of globalization. I also hope the course generates some ways to think about contemporary literature and its uses in the 'fossil-fueled and globalized' world. The direction you decide to take these insights will be largely up to you. You will have opportunities to improve the skill with which you use secondary sources of various kinds to analyze literary texts; you will also have the opportunity to use literary texts in ways that may not have occurred to you before.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, you will

- be able to explain the role of energy in daily life
- be aware of different energy perspectives
- develop the research skills to locate yourself, a thing, or a location within energy systems
- offer a working definition of petroculture, energy unconscious, and energy struggle
- discuss the effect on meaning that different modes of reportage have (fiction, history, report, and so on)
- be prepared to identify several ways literature apprehends energy systems as well as several ways energy systems inform literature
- identify compelling, big-picture questions arising from readings and discussion

Texts

Abdel Rahman Munif, *Cities of Salt* (find any copy)

Nnedi Okorafor, *Lagoon* (find any copy)

Paolo Bacigalupi, *Ship Breaker* (find any copy)

Julianna Spahr, *That Winter the Wolf Came* (available in PDF on Commune Editions website)

George Miller, Dir. *Mad Max: Fury Road?* (available through the Criterion library database)

Edward Burtynsky, Jennifer Baichwal, and Nicholas de Pencier, film makers. *Anthropocene: The Human Epoch* (available through Kanopy library database)

Readings

See course modules and “Readings & Resources” in Blackboard for all required and suggested readings.

Assessments, Assignments and Tests:

Module Exercises 60% (6 exercises 10% each): You will be graded on your posted reflection and your comments offered to others based on their reflections. These exercises are alternatively described as fieldwork. See each module for specific instructions.

Article Annotation 20% (2 Articles 10% each): You will be graded based on your account of the article. Your notes will be shared with the class in order to prepare everyone to write a **Research Primer**. Please see the assignment instructions on Blackboard for further information.

Research Primer 20%: You will be graded on how well you situate and explain the core research on a subject area of your choosing. Subjects of interest will be identified by the class. The direction you take in your research primer is up to you. Please see the assignment instructions on Blackboard for further information.

Grade Total by Withdrawal Date

30% by July 13, 2020

Schedule

Reading

If possible, read the course texts and watch the films ahead of the course start time. This will allow you to spend the six weeks of the course working on modules, reading articles, conducting your fieldwork.

Modules

Welcome Module

Module 1: The Oil Encounter

Module 2: The Built World of Energy

Module 3: Living Oil

Module 4: The Energy Unconscious

Module 5: Climate Crisis

Module 6: Energy Struggles

Assignment Due Dates

See Blackboard assignments for due dates.

Course Guidelines

Course Guidelines

Email: Students in this class are required to check their official university email account at least once a day, in case there are any announcements. Course instructors and workshop leaders will endeavor to respond to emails within 48 hours. Students are encouraged to post non-confidential questions to the blackboard discussion boards so that everyone can benefit from having the question addressed.

Course Discussion Boards: Students in this class are required to check the blackboard discussion board at least once a day, in case there are any

announcements. Course instructors and workshop leaders will respond more quickly to discussion posts than to emails.

Academic Skills Centre: Students are strongly encouraged to make use of the Academic Skills Centre at any stage of the course or writing process. Please visit their website: <http://www.trentu.ca/academicskills/>.

Flexibility: If it will benefit the class, changes may be made to the syllabus after notice, discussion, and online vote has taken place.

Accommodations: If you who believe you will require accommodations in this course you should contact Student Accessibility Services by visiting their website at <https://www.trentu.ca/wellness/sas>. Please feel free to be in touch with your course instructor or workshop leader.

Academic Integrity: The university expects that you will hold to the highest level of academic integrity. The university's standards for academic integrity are outlined in the [Undergraduate Academic Integrity Policy](#). For questions, please consult the [Academic Integrity FAQ](#).

Academic Freedom: We all enter this classroom with pre-existing political, ethical, and intellectual commitments. You are all required to engage the material—but you are absolutely not required to agree either with any of the writers we will discuss in whole or in part.

Respect: This course forms a community. It is crucial that we treat each other with the appropriate level of courtesy and respect. No one should be made to feel unwelcome here. Failure to treat other students with the respect they deserve will severely negatively impact your standing in this course.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Academic dishonesty, which includes plagiarism and cheating, is an extremely serious academic offence and carries penalties varying from failure on an assignment to expulsion from the University. Definitions, penalties, and procedures for dealing with plagiarism and cheating are set out in Trent University's *Academic Integrity Policy*. You

have a responsibility to educate yourself – unfamiliarity with the policy is not an excuse. You are strongly encouraged to visit Trent's Academic Integrity website to learn more: www.trentu.ca/academicintegrity.

Access to Instruction

It is Trent University's intent to create an inclusive learning environment. If a student has a disability and documentation from a regulated health care practitioner and feels that they may need accommodations to succeed in a course, the student should contact the Student Accessibility Services Office (SAS) at the respective campus as soon as possible.
