

TCORE 124 E & F: Introduction to Humanities ~ Spring 2014

**MONA LISA GOES GREEN:
EXPLORING THE INTERSECTION OF ART & ECOLOGY**

Instructor: Shannon Tyman

Strange as it may sound, the idea of nature is getting in the way of properly ecological forms of culture, philosophy, politics and art.

– Timothy Morton (2007)

Do something that is: visually striking, socially radical, conceptually and contextually sensitive, sustainable, in the public domain (outside of art venues), and hurts no living thing—something that will change the world. Good luck!

– Lucy R. Lippard (2012)

	Section E	Section F
Class Times	Monday & Wednesday 10:20 – 12:25 pm	Monday & Wednesday 1:30 – 3:35 pm
Class Location	JOY 104	TLB 115
Office Hours (also by appointment)	TTH 11:20 – 12:20pm Pinkerton 215	
Contact	skt8@uw.edu or (253) 692-5880	

Course Description

Experimentation is at the heart of science so it comes as no surprise that there is a rich intersection between art and ecology. In this course we will investigate this exciting relationship. We will look at the natural world through the eyes of artists, scientists, and artist-scientists. We will ask ourselves: how do science and art approach the natural world differently? Throughout the course we will expand the traditional natural science definition of ecology. A significant portion of the course will be spent sharing the work of artists responding to ecological concerns such as climate change, loss of wildlife habitat, and industrial pollution. Is artistic work about nature useful as a means to educate? Does it also help us “solve” environmental problems? As a class we will consider the role of art in today’s ecological crises.

Core

The Core program consists of a coordinated series of courses that represent the various disciplines in the university. This course, along with the others in your cohort, fulfills one of the university’s general education requirements in each of the areas of knowledge plus composition. The courses are designed to both support and challenge you to develop the critical thinking, writing, research, and analytical skills you’ll need at UWT while introducing you to relevant topics in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, students should demonstrate an ability to:

- situate one's self in relation to a broader human context.
- critically read an artistic, literary, or historical text or artifact.
- analyze a text or artifact by applying a theoretical or aesthetic framework.

Students will also develop skills in:

- *inquiry & problem solving*: collect, evaluate, and analyze information and resources to solve problems or answer questions.
- *synthesis & context*: make meaningful connections among assignments and readings in order to develop a sense of the 'big picture.'
- *analysis*: identify, analyze, and summarize/represent the key elements of a text.
- *expression of ideas*: express ideas clearly in writing and speaking in order to synthesize and evaluate information before presenting it.
- *global perspective*: interact with concepts, ideas, and processes related to the interdependences between personal, local, and global relationships.
- *diversity*: think outside of cultural norms and values, including their own perspectives, to critically engage the larger world.

Required Texts and Materials

Available at the UW-T bookstore.

- Weintraub, Linda. *To Life!: Eco Art in Pursuit of a Sustainable Planet*, 2012.
- Yamashita, Karen Tei. *Through the Arc of the Rainforest*, 1990.

Canvas and UWT Email Required

Check your UW email and the course Canvas website daily for updates. The announcement page will provide important information and guide you to other resources. Canvas and email will also be used extensively for communication, announcements, assignments, lecture notes, exchange of ideas, and feedback.

Grading

<i>Item</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Date Due</i>
Participation	20	Every class
Written Essays	60	See Below
Pecha-Kucha Presentation	5	April 30 th
Final Exam	15	June 4 th
TOTAL:	100%	

<http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/enrollment-services/grading-policies>

Course Requirements

Participation 20%

Each student is expected to:

- come to class prepared, having completed all of the assigned readings;
- contribute to class discussions and be respectful of differing opinions; and
- be an active, informed participant in all class activities.

We will do short writing activities, group work, and other in-class assignments each class period. There are a total of 45 participation points available based on these activities (3 per class). The grading rubric for participation is below:

Points Earned	3	2	1	0
Expectations	Student comes to class prepared, having completed all of the assigned readings, respectfully contributes to class discussions without dominating, and meaningfully participates in all class activities.	Student is present and participates in activities and discussion but has not completed the assigned reading beforehand.	Student is late to class or leaves early and/or does not engage respectfully with other students or participate in class activities. Student is distracted by the use of electronic devices and/or distracts others.	Student is absent without a documented illness, family emergency, or pre-arrangement with the instructor.

Written Essays 60%

There will be a total of 3 written essay due throughout the term. More detailed information for each assignment will be provided in-class and on Canvas.

- What is Eco-Art? (2-4pgs; 15%),
- Eco-Criticism Exercise (2-4pgs; 20%),
- Nature in *Through the Arc of the Rainforest* (3-5 pgs; 25%)

PechaKucha Presentation 5%

Each student will be responsible for researching and orally presenting on an eco-artist. More information about this assignment will be provided in-class and on Canvas.

Final Exam 10%

A comprehensive final exam containing multiple choice, short-answer, and essay questions will be given on Wednesday, June 4th. The content for the exam will be drawn from lectures, readings, and in-class exercises.

A note about plagiarism: Students are expected to turn in their own work in this class. Any evidence of plagiarism will result in zero points for the plagiarized assignment. Multiple acts of plagiarism will result in zero points for the course. It is each student's responsibility to clear up any uncertainties regarding what constitutes plagiarism. Please see the UWT website on Academic Honesty for further details: <http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/enrollment-services/academic-honesty>.

****Late Work** will not be accepted except by pre-arrangement or in the case of a documented illness, family emergency, etc

Course Schedule (subject to change)

WEEK 1: Welcome to the Anthropocene

Monday March 31st : Intro to Humanities & Gunpowder Park

Wednesday April 2nd : What is the Anthropocene?

- “The death of environmentalism: Global warming politics in a post-environmental world,”
By Ted Nordhaus and Michael Shellenberger
◦ <http://grist.org/article/doi-reprint/>

WEEK 2: What is Eco-Art?

Monday April 7th

- Read: Preface, Schematics|Indexes|Glossaries & Art:Artistic Infrastructure (pp xiii-16) in *To Life!*
- Syllabus Quiz

Wednesday April 9th:

- Read: Eco: Ecological Operatives (pp.19-50) in *To Life!*
- Assign Eco-Art Essay

WEEK 3: Land Art

Monday April 14th

- Field Trip: Tacoma Art Museum

Wednesday April 16th

- Read: “Land, Art From Smithson to Guantanamo”
◦ <http://www.acastronovo.com/ClassHtms/ClassDocs/Andrews.pdf>
- Read: Andy Goldsworthy (pp. 183-188) in *To Life!*

Thursday April 17th

- Art + Sci Salon at Museum 6-8pm, Extra Credit!!

WEEK 4: 20th Century Eco Art Pioneers

Monday April 21st

- Read pp. 53-86 in *To Life!*
- Artist sign-up for Pecha Kucha Presentation
- Eco-Art Essay Due

Wednesday April 23rd

- Read pp. 86-120 in *To Life!*
- Assign 3-hours toward eco-criticism

WEEK 5: 21st Century Eco Art Explorers

Monday April 28th

- Visitor: Emily Doolittle: Music + Ecology + Animals
- Reading TBD

Wednesday April 30th

- Twenty-First-Century Eco Art Explorers Pecha-Kucha Presentations

WEEK 6: Understanding Eco-criticism

Monday May 5th

- Read: Timothy Morton (Canvas)
- Eco-crit assignment Due

Wednesday May 7th

- Eco-poetry workshop with Anna Goren
- Reading TBD

WEEK 7: What is Nature?

Monday May 12th

- Read: *Through the Arc of the Rainforest* Part I & II
- Assign *Through the Arc of the Rainforest* Paper

Wednesday May 14th

- Read: *Through the Arc of the Rainforest* Part III & IV

WEEK 8: What is Nature? (cont'd)

Monday May 19th

- Read: *Through the Arc of the Rainforest* Part V & VI

Wednesday May 21st

- Read: Simal, Begoña. (2010). The Junkyard in the Jungle: Transnational, Transnatural Nature in Karen Tei Yamashita's *Through the Arc of the Rain Forest*. *Journal of Transnational American Studies*, 2(1).
 - Available on Canvas

WEEK 9: (Post-)Industrial Landscapes

Monday May 26th NO CLASS MEMORIAL DAY

Wednesday May 28th

- Watch & Discuss: *Manufactured Landscapes*
- *Through the Arc* paper due

WEEK 10: Course Wrap-up

Monday June 2nd

- Read: “The Future” in *To Life!* (pp. 319-320)
- Read: “What the Warming World needs now is Art Sweet Art” by Bill McKibben
 - www.grist.org/article/mckibben-imagine/

Wednesday June 4th

- Final Exam

Selected Resources

Green Art Guide

A selective guide to websites which show the work of creative artists concerned with ecology, nature, environmental and social issues in their themes or in the techniques they use; ecological exhibitions; green places to visit and ecological ways of getting there (and some artists called Green).

- <http://www.greenart.info/guide/>

Green Museum

An online museum of environmental art and a giant collaborative art-making tool.

- <http://www.greenmuseum.org/>

On Reserve at the UW-T library:

Matilsky, Barbara C. *Fragile Ecologies: Contemporary Artists' Interpretations and Solutions*. New York: Rizzoli International, 1992.

Moyer, Twylene, and Glenn Harper. *The New Earthwork: Art, Action, Agency*. Hamilton, NJ: ISC Press, 2011.

Other Important Campus Resources & Information

Teaching and Learning Center

The TLC provides a wide variety of instructional resources and support for teaching and learning at UW Tacoma. Teaching and learning are ongoing processes that take practice, commitment, and time. We are here to assist you in achieving your goals and provide math/quantitative, writing, science, and other tutoring services.

<http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/tlc/>

Academic Standards/Plagiarism

All student work must be free of plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined in the University catalog and in the Student Handbook. Consult your professor if you have any questions.

A major part of your experience in the class will be reading, synthesizing, and using the knowledge and ideas of others. It is the responsibility of the faculty to help you in this process and to be certain you learn to credit the work of others upon which you draw. To plagiarize is to appropriate and to pass off, as one's own ideas, writing or works of another. Plagiarism is no less of a misconduct violation than vandalism or assault. Ignorance of proper documentation procedures is the usual cause of plagiarism. This ignorance

does not excuse the act. Students are responsible for learning how and when to document and attribute resources used in preparing a written or oral presentation.

For more information, please refer to the “Student Academic Responsibility” document prepared by the Committee on Academic Conduct in the College of Arts and Sciences, UW Seattle:

<http://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf>

Library

The UWT Library provides resources and services to support students at all levels of expertise. We guide students through the research process, helping them learn how to develop effective research strategies and find and evaluate appropriate resources. For more information about the Library and its services, see:

<http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/library/>

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices (including, but not limited to, cell phones, pagers, laptops, and personal digital assistants) may only be used in the classroom with the permission of the instructor. Activities that are non-relevant to the course, such as checking/sending email, playing games, and surfing the web, are considered disruptive activities when class is in session.

E-mail Policy

http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/policies_procedures/E-mail_Policy.pdf

Student Health Services

Student Health Services (SHS) is committed to providing compassionate, convenient, and affordable health care for University of Washington Tacoma students, from care for illness and minor injury to women’s health and preventative medicine, including vaccination services. Insurance is not required. Funded by UW Tacoma student fees, office visits are provided free of charge. Treatment plans may incur costs, such as medications, labs, or vaccines, most of which are offered at discounted rates. For more information, please visit www.tacoma.uw.edu/shs or email at uwtshs@uw.edu. If you have questions or would like to schedule an appointment, please call (253) 692-5811 or stop by SHS at the Laborer’s Hall on Market Street.

Counseling Center (Student Success)

The Counseling Center offers short-term, problem-focused counseling to UW Tacoma students who may feel overwhelmed by the responsibilities of college, work, family, and relationships. Counselors are available to help students cope with stresses and personal issues that may interfere with their ability to perform in school. The service is provided confidentially and without additional charge to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students. To schedule an appointment, please call 692-4522 or stop by the Student Counseling Center (SCC), located in MAT 354.

http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SHW/scc_about.cfm/

Disability Support Services (Student Success)

The University of Washington Tacoma is committed to making physical facilities and instructional programs accessible to students with disabilities. Disability Support Services (DSS) functions as the focal point for coordination of services for students with disabilities. In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any enrolled student at UW Tacoma who has an appropriately documented physical, emotional, or mental disability that "substantially limits one or more major life activities [including walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working]," is eligible for services from DSS. If you are wondering if you may be eligible for accommodations on our campus, please contact the DSS reception desk at 692-4522.

http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SHW/dss_about.cfm/

Campus Safety Information

<http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/administrative-services/campus-safety>

Safety Escort Program

For your safety, UW Tacoma encourages students, faculty, staff and visitors to use the Safety Escort Program. Campus Safety Officers are available to walk you to your car or other campus destinations during the following hours: Monday - Thursday — 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday — 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The service is free of charge. During busy periods, the Campus Safety Officer may ask you to meet in a common location as to facilitate escorting multiple people. Dial 253-692-4416 to request a Safety Escort.

In case of a fire alarm

Take your valuables and leave the building. Plan to return to class once the alarm has stopped. Do not return until you have received an all clear from somebody "official," the web or email.

In case of an earthquake

DROP, COVER, and HOLD. Once the shaking stops, take your valuables and leave the building. Do not plan to return for the rest of the day. Do not return to the building until you have received an all clear from somebody "official," the web, or email.

Inclement Weather

Call (253) 383-INFO to determine whether campus operations have been suspended. If not, but driving conditions remain problematic, call the professor's office number. This number should provide information on whether a particular class will be held or not, and/or the status of pending assignments. If the first two numbers have been contacted and the student is still unable to determine whether a class will be held, or the student has a part-time instructor who does not have an office phone or contact number, call the program office number for updated information.