Humanities 101CC: Valuing the Environment
Course Description

Details

Instructor: John M. Ware
Office: Main 331
Office hours: Thursdays 4:00-5:00; Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays 2:00-3:00; and by appointment.
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Sections: HUM 101CC; T/R 2:30-3:50; Main 222

Course Materials

The following text is required and available from the Wofford College Bookstore:


Electronic copies of the following readings are available on our course’s Moodle site:

Marshall, “Do You Really Believe in Climate Change”
Harris, *Global Environmental Issues*
Young, “Throwing Out the Garbage”
Ananthaswamy, “Going, going. . . .”
Mouawad, “Oil Everywhere”
Natural Resources Defense Council, “Trout in Trouble”
Multiple Authors, “The Value of Land”
Singer, “One Atmosphere”
McFague, “The Loving Eye”
Other supplementary readings, including sample drafts of assignments.

The following films will be on reserve in the Sandor Teszler library. Although purchase of the films is not required, owning the DVD can make viewing and discussing the films easier. Portions of the films will be viewed in class:


Course Description

Humanities 101CC has two objectives. First, we will conduct a semester-long exploration of the study, consideration, and representation of the environment. We'll begin by reading about current environmental issues—those states of affairs that environmental scientists consider pressing. This part of the course will conclude with research completed on recent assessments of select environmental issues in specific serial publications. Next, we'll read significant historical and more contemporary efforts to attribute value to the environment. These attitudes, which represent different perspectives on the environment, also encourage action on environmental issues. This section of the course ends with a position paper in which students suggest their own grounds for valuing the environment and relate that perspective to a particular issue. Lastly, we’ll view and analyze two films with environmental themes. This section concludes with a film analysis.
In addition to considering the way in which the environment is valued and represented, this course develops oral and written communication skills. Much of our discussion and some of our reading will be focused on aspects of writing ranging from ways in which academic essays are produced, to conventions governing writing in the academy (especially the humanities), to the relationship between writing and knowledge. Required writing assignments include prewriting, peer review, and finished essays. While completing each assignment, students will share their work throughout the writing process with their peers in order to improve their final drafts. Although individual writers make the final decisions regarding their writing, group members are responsible for reading attentively and offering substantive advice. Timely preparation of drafts and critiques is critical to the course.

**Moodle**

This course will rely on its Moodle site for distribution of readings not included in the textbooks, distribution of assignments, the online gradebook feature, the submission of drafts and comments during the peer-review process, and the submission of final drafts of assignments.

**Grades**

This course is divided into three units consisting of a variety of graded assignments. By the end of the semester, you will have received 4 grades that contribute 25% to your final grade:

- Summary and Evaluation (25%)
- Position Paper (25%)
- Film Analysis (25%)
- Attendance and Participation (25%)

Grades are represented on a one hundred-point scale, but you can convert them to a letter grade according to the following:

- 93-100: A
- 90-92: A-
- 87-89: B+
- 83-86: B
- 80-82: B-
- 77-79: C+
- 73-76: C
- 70-72: C-
- 60-69: D
- 00-59: F

**Attendance and Participation**

Attendance, preparation, and participation contribute 25% to your final grade. A general, but not binding, way of conceiving of the effect of attendance on your grade is as follows: with 1-2 absences, you may still earn an A in attendance; with 2-3 absences, you may still earn a B in attendance; with 3-5 absences, you may still earn a C or a D in attendance; with 6 absences, you will likely receive an F (00) in attendance; with more than 6 absences, you will not get credit for this course. Alert me to necessary absences and unusual circumstances; retain documentation of absences. With supporting documentation, absences due to official college events will not negatively affect your grade, but they will count as absences.
If you enter class after I have checked the roll, you are late, and it is your responsibility to see me immediately after class to be certain that I count you as present. If you are more than fifteen minutes late to class, you are welcome to stay, but I will not give you credit for having attended.

Participation begins with adequate preparation for class: completion of required reading and writing and the appropriate number of drafts or comments. Participation includes the extent of your contributions to discussion, whether in groups or the entire class, and the quality of your comments on peers’ drafts.

Occasional writing, such as exercises, assigned responses, and peer review, does not receive a formal grade; instead it is graded, if at all, on a scale of -, √, +, or some combination of the above. √ indicates that the response meets the expectations set out in the assignment. Writing that exceeds expectations (whether on account of level of engagement or attention to detail) receives a +. Occasional writing contributes to an individual’s attendance and participation grade. In order to receive a high grade in that category, a student should seek to accumulate pluses, minimize minuses, and respond to assignments in a timely fashion.

Your grade is something you earn, and you have every right to be concerned about it. Please visit me during my office hours or schedule a time to meet with me if you have any questions or concerns about your grade.

**Office Hours, Email, Phone**

Office hours are times during which you can drop by my office without prior notice and with the assurance that I will be there unless I have indicated otherwise. Please take advantage of this time to discuss any aspects of this class. I will gladly meet with you at other times; we simply need to arrange to do so. While my office phone number is 597-4362, the most effective way to contact me is by email.

**The Honor Code**

The Wofford College Honor Pledge charges students to uphold the integrity of the College. In this course, we will discuss methods by which writers clearly signal material that they have borrowed from an outside source and incorporated into their own work through quotation, paraphrase, or summary. Failure to properly acknowledge one’s sources or to appropriately quote, paraphrase, or summarize constitutes plagiarism, which is an honor code violation.

All writing for this class is to originate with this class. If you wish to use writing from an earlier point in your academic career, you need to discuss this matter with me prior to submitting any assignment.

**Classroom Policies**

Food and Drink.
Telephony.
Laptop computers.

**Other Resources**

Wofford College offers services related to students’ academic performance and personal wellbeing: The Writing Center and Health Services are two services to keep in mind.