

English 3385.001/ESST 2300.001: Special Topics in Rhetoric: Environmental Rhetoric
Spring 2016
MWF 10 a.m.--10:50 a.m.
University Hall 007

Professor Justin Lerberg
203E Carlisle Hall
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Office Hours: MWF 11 a.m.-12 p.m. and by appointment

Course Description:

This course takes a broad approach to rhetoric as a form of persuasion and investigation that is inherently connected to our communicative activities and our environmental definitions. Any discursive and representative approaches to the environment depend on rhetorical principles and succeed or fail because of the rhetorical effects produced in the audiences. The course will use theory, ethics, literature, film, and digital installations to examine how rhetoric underlines our approaches to the environment as exhibited in examples of tourism, fashion, public transportation, architecture and design, popular culture, and other mediums.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students should be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a variety of texts
- Students should be able to analyze and interpret texts and films employing close reading skills as well as a variety of other theories and methods employed in English Studies.
- Students should be able to effectively communicate orally with small groups and in front of the entire class.
- Students should be able to perform independent research, using the MLA bibliography and other methods.
- Students should be able to express their ideas in clear, logical, organized, concise, and persuasive ways, in both written and oral forms.
- Students should be able to respond critically to all course material, using synthesis, analysis, comparison, contrast, critique and evaluation.
- Students should be able to use web-based scholarly sources and library resources in an effective manner.
- Students will be able to effectively and appropriately participate in small group collaborative learning situations.
- By the end of the semester students will be able to explain the concept of sustainability and related concepts, and to apply those concepts critically and thoughtfully to issues and examples drawn from the relationship between people and the natural environment

Required Texts:

Mark Lynas: *High Tide: The Truth About Our Climate Crisis*

Peter C. Van Wyck: *Signs of Danger: Waste, Trauma, and Nuclear Threat*

Blackboard Readings

Davis Guggenheim: *An Inconvenient Truth*

Major Assignments:

Reading Cards	15%
Paper 1	20%
Paper 2	20%
Paper 3	15%
Presentation	05%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	10%

Grades: Final grades will be calculated as follows: A=90-100%, B=80-89.99%, C=70-79.99%, D=60-69.99%, F=0-59.99%

(Prompts will be handed out with detailed descriptions of the major papers and the presentation.)

Attendance:

At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I recognize that the best way to engage in critical conversations about the material and the context for writing stems from intellectual exchange, and this cannot happen if students do not attend class; however, the level of your engagement in the class is entirely up to you. Attendance will be taken through the use of reading cards. At the start of each class, you must submit an index card that contains the following: your name, the date, a 1-2 sentence summary of the scheduled reading, and a thoughtfully constructed question (e.g., no true/false or yes/no or quiz-like questions) about the day's assigned reading.

Excluding the first week of class, peer review workshops, and other "non-reading card" days, we have 30 scheduled meetings that may involve newly assigned readings; however, since it is not always possible to attend class, I will expect from you a maximum of 25 cards, which means that you are allowed five absences without penalty. Additional cards will count as .6% extra credit; so, if you have perfect attendance and turn in the required cards, you will raise your final grade by 3%.

Please note:

- You must be present in class in order to submit reading card; I will not accept cards that are submitted via email, put in my mailbox, shoved under my office door, etc., even if turned in early.
- If you are late for class by no more than 20 minutes, please hand your card to me as soon as you enter the classroom. If I have not yet collected the reading cards, you will receive full credit; if I have already collected them, you will receive half-credit.
- Cards submitted later than 20 minutes after class has started will not receive credit; if you are uncertain about how late you are, please ask me after class.
- Cards that explain why you have not written a summary and question will not receive credit!
- If no new reading is required for class, a sign-in sheet, distributed at the beginning of class, will be used in lieu of a reading card.

- If two or more readings are required for class, you should only summarize one of them for your reading card.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

Disability Accommodations: UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide “reasonable accommodations” to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the **Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD)**. Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) www.uta.edu/disability or calling 817-272-3364.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) www.uta.edu/caps/ or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Title IX: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos. For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX.*

Academic Integrity: Students enrolled all UT Arlington courses are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents' Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will

be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University

Electronic Communication: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as "lecture," "seminar," or "laboratory" shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Emergency Exit Procedures Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located at the left when exiting the classroom. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist individuals with disabilities. (<http://www.uta.edu/police/EvacuationProcedures.pdf>)

Student Support Services: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at <http://www.uta.edu/universitycollege/resources/index.php>

Writing Center. The English Writing Center is located in Room 411 Central Library. Hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and Noon to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Students must register and can make appointments online at <http://uta.mywconline.com>. Face-to-Face and online appointments for undergraduate students are scheduled for 20, 40, or 60 minutes. Writing Center consultants assist with any aspect of academic writing, from understanding an assignment, brainstorming, revising an early draft, to polishing a final draft. However, the Writing Center is not an editing service; consultants will not correct grammar or rewrite assignments during our long sessions. Please see www.uta.edu/owl for more information about services and guidelines.

Librarian to Contact: The subject librarian for this course is Diane Shepelwhich. Diane can be reached at dianec@uta.edu or 817-272-7521 <http://library.uta.edu/staff/diane-shepelwich>

General Library information follows:

Library Home Page	http://www.uta.edu/library
Subject Guides.....	http://libguides.uta.edu
Subject Librarians	http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php
Course Reserves	http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do
Library Tutorials	http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php
Connecting from Off- Campus.....	http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus
Ask A Librarian.....	http://ask.uta.edu

Emergency Phone Numbers: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911. Non-emergency number 817-272-3381

Course Schedule

As the instructor for this course, I reserve the right to adjust this schedule in any way that serves the educational needs of the students enrolled in this course. –Justin Lerberg.

BB = Blackboard readings

Week	Date	Class Activity	Due for Class	Reading Cards Due
1	1/20	Introduction to the course; syllabus; environmental rhetoric brief.		
1	1/22	Rhetoric and Argument; Asking Questions.	Read BB WK 1: Fri	
2	1/25	Rhetoric and Argument	Read BB WK 2: Mon	Yes
2	1/27	Ideas about Sustainability	Read BB WK 2: Wed	Yes
2	1/29	Ideas about Sustainability	Read BB WK 2: Fri	Yes
3	2/1	Ideas about Sustainability	Read BB WK 3: Mon	Yes
3	2/3	Language and the Environment	Read BB WK 3: Wed	Yes
3	2/5	Language and the Environment; Discuss Paper 1; introduce Papers 2,3, and presentations	Read BB WK 3: Fri	Yes
4	2/8	Environmental Justice	Read BB WK 4: Mon	Yes
4	2/10	Environmental Justice	Read BB WK 4: Wed	Yes
4	2/12	Environmental Justice; Consumption	Read BB WK 4: Fri	Yes
5	2/15	Consumption and Consumerism	Read BB WK 5: Mon; Upload a Draft of Paper 1	Yes
5	2/17	Consumption and Consumerism	Read BB WK 5: Wed	Yes
5	2/19	Peer Review Workshop	Bring a Draft of Paper 1	NO
6	2/22	Consumption and Consumerism	Read BB WK 6: Mon; Final Paper 1 due to Blackboard	Yes
6	2/24	Environmental Cartoons; Animals	Read BB WK 6: Wed	Yes
6	2/26	Animals	Read BB WK 6: Fri	Yes
7	2/29	Ecological threat	Read BB WK 7: Mon; Read van Wyck vii-30	Yes
7	3/2	Ecological threat	Read van Wyck 31-77	Yes
7	3/4	Ecological threat	Read van Wyck 79-end	Yes
8	3/7	Review for Midterm; Discuss Paper 2	Bring Questions about the Midterm.	NO
8	3/9	Midterm: Part 1		NO
8	3/11	Midterm: Part 2		NO
9	3/14	Spring Break: No Class		Yes
9	3/16	Spring Break: No Class		Yes
9	3/18	Spring Break: No Class		Yes
10	3/21	Discuss Midterm; <i>Manufactured Landscapes</i> ;	Watch Film In Class	Yes (will write in class)
10	3/23	<i>Manufactured Landscapes</i>	Watch Film in Class	Yes (will write in class)
10	3/25	Images	Read BB WK 10: Fri	Yes

11	3/28	Urban Sustainability	Read BB WK 11: Mon; Draft Paper 2 due to Blackboard	Yes
11	3/30	Urban Sustainability	Read BB WK 11: Wed	Yes
11	4/1	Peer Review Workshop	Bring a Copy of Paper 2	NO
12	4/4	Moving Forward; Discuss Paper 3	Read BB WK 12: Mon; Final Paper 2 due to Blackboard	Yes
12	4/6	Moving Forward; Climate Change	Read BB WK 12: Wed	Yes
12	4/8	Research Day: No Class		NO
13	4/11	Climate Change	Watch <i>An Inconvenient Truth</i>	Yes
13	4/13	Climate Change	Read Lynas ix-126	Yes
13	4/15	Climate Change	Read Lynas 127-198	Yes
14	4/18	Climate Change	Read Lynas 199-End; Draft Paper 3 due to Blackboard	Yes
14	4/20	Peer Review Workshop	Bring a Paper 3	NO
14	4/22	TBD/Presidential Candidates		Yes
15	4/25	Presentations		NO
15	4/27	Presentations		NO
15	4/29	Presentations	Final Paper 3 due to Blackboard	NO
16	5/2	Presentations		NO
16	5/4	Presentations		NO
16	5/6	Final Exam Review and SFS surveys		NO
17	5/9	Final Exam: 8-10:30, UH 7		NO

