

Environmental Science Literacy (3 credits) **Spring 2018, ENV375.197**

Instructor: Katherine Dawson

236 Environmental Science and Natural Resources

Kat.Dawson@rutgers.edu

Class Meetings: 323 Environmental and Natural Resources, MW 3:55-5:15 PM

Office Hours: 236 Environmental Science and Natural Resources, MW 2-3 PM or appointment

Sakai course site: <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/directtool/867ec973-3787-4218-b45b-dd956d10bdbb/>

Grading:

Opinion essays (**50%**) which is accumulated from: Opinion essay 1 (**12.5 %**), Opinion essay 2 (**12.5 %**), Opinion essay 3 (**12.5%**), Make your own GMO (**12.5%**)

Presentation (**10%**)

Participation (**10%**)

Research Paper (**30%**) which is accumulated from:

Abstract (**5%**), Outline and Annotated Bibliography (**10%**), Final paper (**15%**)

Participation: Participation includes attending class and being a participant in class discussions and activities. Ask questions; complete in class activities; share your opinions and interpretations of the readings. If you know that you will be absent from class, then you **MUST** let me know in **WRITING** ahead of the missed class. For unforeseen absences, please email as soon as possible with the reason for the absence.

Turning in assignments: All assignments are due by **11:59 PM** of the due date and may be submitted on paper or electronically. A half grade (e.g. B+ → B) penalty will be incurred for each late day.

Readings: Readings will be provided to you from various books and articles on a variety of topics of current popular interest. The first topic, “The 20th Century Environmental Movement”, has been decided. We will select the remaining topics based on class interest during the first meeting. Readings should be done ahead of class to prepare for in class discussions.

Opinion essays: (~1000 words, 1-2 pages) As a class, we will be doing several topical readings on environmental science issues including climate change and genetically modified organisms. These are issues for which there opposing or differing viewpoints. Consider this your newspaper editorial piece. It’s your chance to make your case without interruption. However, these opinions need to be supported by facts obtained from the provided readings and additional sources such as newspaper and journal articles, government reports, and text books. Clever arguments can be incredibly persuasive, fun to read, and there is no wrong answer.

Presentation: You will put together a 10 minute presentation on your research paper topic. This is a great chance to get some feedback from your peers.

Research paper: (5-7 pages not inclusive of references, tables, or figures, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, at least 10 references, at least 2 figures) You will write a research paper on a topic of interest, this may include expanding on an opinion essay topic. This will be a cumulative project for the semester with an **Abstract** turned in on **March 9th** and an **Outline and Annotated Bibliography** turned in on **April 16th**. The **Abstract** will be a paragraph detailing the topic of your paper, the **Outline** will arrange the major topics and supporting details that you plan to cover in your paper, and the **Annotated Bibliography** will include at least **10 references** with several full sentences describing each of the documents. Examples will be posted to the Sakai course website.

PLAGARISM: Plagiarism is taking credit for someone else’s work whether deliberately or unintentionally. This includes but is not limited to turning in all or part of an essay written by someone other than yourself (a friend, an internet source, etc.) and claiming it as your own, and including information or ideas from research material without citing the source. **You will receive an automatic 0 for plagiarized work, and may be reported to the Office of Academic Integrity**

Schedule

Week	Date	Activity	What's Due
1	15 Jan 2017	No class, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
1	17 Jan 2017	Review the syllabus, vote on topics	
2	22 Jan 2017	The 20th Century Environmental Movement	
2	24 Jan 2017	Research resources, identifying the good from the bad	
3	29 Jan 2017	The 20th Century Environmental Movement	
3	31 Jan 2017	Using Word	
4	5 Feb 2017	The 20th Century Environmental Movement	
4	7 Feb 2017	Using PowerPoint	Opinion Essay 1
5	12 Feb 2017	Climate Change	
5	14 Feb 2017	Library workshop, Meet @ Douglas Library Alcove	
6	19 Feb 2017	Climate Change	
6	21 Feb 2017	Introduction to Excel	
7	26 Feb 2017	Climate Change	
7	28 Feb 2017	Excel activities	
8	5 Mar 2017	Climate Change	Opinion Essay 2
8	7 Mar 2017	Excel activities	Abstract (Mar 9)
9	12 Mar 2017	No class, Spring Break	
9	14 Mar 2017	No class, Spring Break	
10	19 Mar 2017	GMOs	
10	21 Mar 2017	Introduction to R	
11	26 Mar 2017	GMOs	
11	28 Mar 2017	Design your own GMO	
12	2 April 2017	Design your own GMO	
12	4 April 2017	GMOs/CRISPR	Opinion Essay 3
13	9 April 2017	Conservation	
13	11 April 2017	Conservation	
14	16 April 2017	Conservation	Outline and Bibliography
14	18 April 2017	Presentations	
15	23 April 2017	Presentations	
15	25 April 2017	Presentations	
16	30 April 2017	Presentations	
16	2 May 2017	No class, Available to discuss research paper 3-5 PM	
17	7 May 2017	No class, Available to discuss research paper 3-5 PM	
17	9 May 2017	No class, Available to discuss research paper 3-5 PM	Research Paper, by midnight