

TERM: Spring 2021

COURSE TITLE: Nature Writing

COURSE NUMBER: JOUR 3998.01/ENGL 3998.12

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: R 6:30-9:30

INSTRUCTOR: McDonnell

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

Humans' bond to the earth seems both more fragile and important than ever. What role can we as writers play in documenting, honoring, and preserving that bond? For centuries, particularly in American letters – and in California -- nature has been a central theme of our lives and our literature. In this course, students will study that history and explore the current state of environmental journalism and nonfiction prose, reading such writers as Thoreau, Rachel Carson, Steinbeck, Elizabeth Kolbert, William Finnegan, Lauret E. Savoy, Darwin, Rebecca Solnit, John Muir, Obi Kaufmann, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Edward Abbey, and Carolyn Finney. But mostly, this course is about teaching you to experience, observe, and reflect on nature. Students will write their own journals, essays, and articles. Working science journalists and naturalists will visit as guest lecturers.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To gain knowledge of the history of nature writing, particularly in America.
- To think critically about the concept of nature and how it is deployed by different writers.
- To think critically about how identity, power, and privilege inform our relationship to the environment and writing about nature.
- To understand the journalist's role in explaining science to the public.
- To spend "quality time" in natural environments and learn how to observe scientifically and journalistically.
- To acquire fluency in environmental journalism's fundamental skills.
- To research and produce publishable "real-world" stories.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND:

Upper division standing

REQUIRED TEXTS:

There will be substantial weekly readings.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Students should be able to venture into natural outdoor spaces on a regular basis, whether it's a park, the ocean, the desert, or your own backyard. This is a reading and writing intensive seminar. Students will write weekly journals of their reactions to the readings and their experiences in nature. They will also write a long-form investigative piece on a contemporary environmental issue that will require field research and original reporting.

This course fulfills the following undergraduate requirements: English Major: Creative/Artistry; Journalism Major: Writing in a Genre and Elective Requirement; Journalism Minor: Elective.

TERM: Spring 2021

COURSE TITLE: Citizen Media

COURSE NUMBER: 75647: JOUR 3998.02 / 75237: CMST 3998.02

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: TR, 9:50 – 11:20 am

INSTRUCTOR: Matt Dewey

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

“Alternative media,” “democratic media,” “DIY” “participatory media,” “user-generated content” are all terms that characterize an intersection between policy, technology, and cultural movements centering on the use and accessibility of the means of media production by non-professionals. Considered broadly as “Citizen Media,” this course will look at important socio-technical shifts and transitions through US history (i.e. the Progressive Movement in the 1930s, Broadcast Reform Movement in the 1970s, DIY in the 1990s-00s) that grassroots activists and advocates have engaged in order to shift and counter the cultural power of large media corporations. The course also will look at the development and practices of the contemporary “citizen journalist” and students will utilize mobile phone technologies in the completion of production-based assignments.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Trace and historicize the political, cultural, and technological developments that underlie efforts for “democratic participation” through media use and production.
- Attain a critical perspective on participation (the production of media texts) in our contemporary social media ecology through writing assignments that asks students to draw on a broader socio-technical and theoretical history.
- Develop mobile phone-based production skills through production-based assignments.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

REQUIRED TEXTS:

TBA

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS:

This is a 4-unit course and it is expected that work outside of class-studio time should be on average for a 4-unit course eight to nine hours per week per University guidelines.

Synchronous and Asynchronous:

This course will meet during the scheduled timeframe through Zoom. The first half of the class time will be devoted to discussion of the weekly readings and reading responses while the second half will be reserved for students to workshop assignments, share drafts of projects, and provide feedback.

Assignments may include: short reading responses; reading presentations in class; prompt essays of 3 or more pages; the production of media texts (i.e. podcasts, YouTube videos, multiplatform social media campaigns) with reflection essays.

This course fulfills the following undergraduate requirements:

Journalism Major: Specialization or Journalism Elective; Journalism Minor: Elective.

TERM: Spring 2021

COURSE TITLE: Communication, Media, and the Law

COURSE NUMBER: CMST 3590 / JOUR 3998.03

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Tuesday/Thursday

INSTRUCTOR: Kevin Curran

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course will review major legal issues affecting mass communication, including journalism, public relations, and broadcasting. Issues discussed will include: First Amendment freedoms, libel/slander, rights of privacy and the media, obscenity, regulations specifically relating to broadcasting and the Federal Communication Commission, regulations specifically relating to advertising, and copyright laws. Major cases pertinent to each topic will be studied in an attempt to help the student understand why the law is as it is. Ethical considerations will be discussed throughout the course.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Understand First Amendment principles, and apply the law to professional practice
2. Explore and understand the ethical decision-making process in a mass media environment
3. Learn the structure and operation of America's judicial systems
4. Survey salient cases, statutes, and agencies that impact reporting and publishing, so that you may protect yourself and your media employer from libel and privacy suits
5. Understand the regulatory system and regulators who oversee mass media, especially the Federal Communications Commission

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

- Junior standing

REQUIRED TEXTS

- To be announced

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Students will:

- Prepare & present a minor case with a group
- Write a major case study
- Prepare a term paper

This course fulfills the following undergraduate requirements:
Journalism Major: Specialization or Elective; Journalism Minor: Elective.

TERM: Spring 2021

COURSE TITLE: Special Studies—Asia Media Practicum

COURSE NUMBER: JOUR 3998.05/ASPA 3998.02/POLS 3998.08

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: M 6:30 PM-8:00 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Prof. Tom Plate

LMU's Distinguished Scholar of Asian and Pacific Affairs

Founder of Asia Media at LMU

SYLLABUS FOR ASIA MEDIA PRACTICUM: ASIA MEDIA MAGAZINE:

Course Plan, MONDAY NIGHT, 6:30-8:00, Zoom

The special course -- a two-credit Practicum in both the fall and spring semester (which it can be taken twice!) focuses on identifying articles appropriate for publication on the web-pages of Asia Media International, the continuously updated web-magazine of LMU's Asia Media Center (asiamedia.lmu.edu); writing those articles in a timely fashion and submitting them for review by the Managing Editor and in turn the Senior Writing and Editing Advisor; and discussing your work with the editors on a regular basis, especially with the founder and president of AMI, Prof Tom Plate. Attendance is mandatory for every session, unless permission is received in advance from the course assistant.

Required Reading:

AN ASIAN ANTHOLOGY Selected Articles by the Staff of Asia Media International, First Edition 2018, Fanos Books, Los Angeles

THIS BOOK WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL STUDENTS TAKING THIS CLASS THE FIRST TIME FREE OF CHARGE BY ASIA MEDIA INTERNATIONAL OF LMU. COST TO YOU: ZERO

ELEMENTS OF STYLE, By E.B. White, 4th edition. *THIS BOOK WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL STUDENTS TAKING THIS CLASS THE SECOND TIME FREE OF CHARGE BY ASIA MEDIA INTERNATIONAL OF LMU. COST TO YOU: ZERO*

This course fulfills the following undergraduate requirements:

Journalism Major: Experience Requirement; Journalism Minor: Journalism Elective

TERM: Spring 2021
COURSE TITLE: Immersed in Urban Oil: Documenting LA Petrocultures
COURSE NUMBER: JOUR 4998/CMST 3998
SECTION TIMES/DAYS: T/TH 3:50 – 5:20 p.m.
INSTRUCTORS: Tara Pixley & Jason Jarvis

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

Immersed in Oil is a community-based learning special projects course focused on documenting the historical and contemporary oil infrastructures of LA County and producing a publicly accessible and immersive archive of research on local Los Angeles histories of oil production. In this course, teams of Journalism and Communication Studies students will work with local NGOs (non-governmental organizations) and the professors to document contemporary oil refining and production practices and environmental problems facing local communities built upon old wells and/or adjacent to “orphan” wells.

Over the semester, students will build a comprehensive digital library documenting the past, present and potential futures of urban oil infrastructure in Los Angeles. The resulting digital project will present an interactive map of LA, where visitors to the site can select a neighborhood of their choice to see 360video environments surrounding oil wells; documentary photography of the neighborhoods; hear the experiences of people who live and work near oil wells/refineries in their own words; and see a century of archival materials related to LA Oil preserved on the website as digital artifacts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be familiar with the key role that energy/oil played in the history of Los Angeles
- Students will understand the concept of Environmental Justice and how it applies to Los Angeles
- Students will learn how to conduct interviews by seeking to interview local citizens and business owners living/working in the affected neighborhoods as well as government officials and experts.
- Students will be familiar with the process of creating interactive digital stories of the urban environments that include data analysis, photography, 360video, and long-form written narratives on the people and places affected by LA oil.

PREREQUISITES/COURSE FULFILLMENT

Must be a Communication Studies major, Journalism major, or Journalism minor and have completed all required lower division courses within your major. This course fulfills a Journalism elective.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

- Davis, M. *City of Quartz*. Verso Books. (2006, 9th Edition)
- (Other readings will be provided)