

070.201 Picturizing Climate Change

Spring 2021, Thursdays 1.30-4pm

Zoom link for course: <https://zoom.us/j/91225883334>

Instructor: Naveeda Khan, nkhan5@jhu.edu Office hours: Tues 1-2.30 and by appt.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/6770643108>

Teaching Assistant: Miki Chase, mchase7@jhu.edu Office hours: Wed 10-12 and by appt.

Zoom link: <https://JHUBlueJays.zoom.us/j/91089740909>

Course Description:

Climate change is represented in many pictures, such as those of tables, graphs, iconic photographs and filmic images. It materializes in many objects and qualities in our everyday lives, such as emissions, heat, solar grids and taxes. Artists attempt to picturize climate through photographs, installations and performance art. In this class we will examine these myriad representations, materializations and artistic efforts to see what ethical, political and aesthetic issues are at stake within them. We will ask to what concerns and desires does climate change give expression?

Learning Outcomes:

This is an introductory course, for which there are no prerequisites. Students can expect to get an introduction to climate science and policy, the politics of representation, critical analysis of different media, and the anthropology of climate change.

Expected Work:

1. Read and watch all assigned material. All readings and viewing material are available through the library's e-reserves link <https://ares.library.jhu.edu/shib/ares.dll> or else the e-reserves link available through the Blackboard page for the course.
2. Submit weekly discussion entries (300-500 words) on the question of the week based on the assignment (the discussion question will be posted by Monday). In addition, comment on one other person's discussion entry (more if you feel inclined). Due by 3pm every Wednesday.
3. Present and lead discussion on one of the assigned readings in your discussion group.
4. Make a final presentation, which can be a short video, a ppt. presentation, a performance, a TED talk, as you like, in one of the last two or three weeks of class. A list of possible topics will be shared later in the semester. Share your ideas with instructor or TA before finalizing your topic.
5. Attend regularly and be involved in class discussion. Use the resources available over Zoom to provide further input (e.g. reactions, chat). Absences have to be pre-approved.
6. Given the viewing component of this course, 1 and 2 will count as the asynchronous portion. We will typically end zoom class by 3pm, except for the last three weeks when we will use the last hour (3-4pm) for final presentations.

Weekly submissions 60 (at 5 points each, you can assume you got full points if you submitted and your submission was accepted)

Leading discussion 15

Final Presentation 15
Attendance and Participation 10
Total of 100 points.

The letter grade conversion is:

A 94-100
A- 90-93
B+ 87-89
B 84-86
B- 80-83
C+ 77-79
C 74-76
C- 70-73
D+ 67-69...

We will make all necessary accommodations for disabilities by means of the Student Disability Office. We will make accommodations for time differences and Internet availability within reason. We are available during our office hours and by appointment for any additional help or conversations. Classes will be automatically recorded and uploaded to the Blackboard page. Instructor retains the right to make changes necessary to assigned material and assignments.

January 30: What is Climate Change?

Hulme, Mike. 2017. "Climate Change, Concept Of" *The International Encyclopedia of Geography* Eds. Douglas Richardson, Noel Castree, Michael E. Goodchild, Audrey Kobayashi, Weidong Liu, and Richard A. Marston

Robinson, Kim Stanley. 2018. "To Slow Down Climate Change, We Need To Take On Capitalism" BuzzFeed News

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/kimstanleyrobinson/climate-change-capitalism-kim-stanley-robinson>

Theme 1: Picturizing Climate Science

Feb 6: Images in/of Climate Science

Walsh, Lynda. "Tricks," Hockey Sticks, and the Myth of the Natural Inscription: How the Visual Rhetoric of Climategate Conflated Climate with Character,"

And

Schneider, Birgit, Thomas Nocke, Georg Feulner "Twist and Shout: Images and Graphs in Skeptical Climate Media" In Birgit Schneider and Thomas Nocke eds. 2014. *Image Politics of Climate Change: Visualizations, Imaginations, Documentations*. Potsdam: Transcript-Verlag: 81-111, 153-186

Feb 13: Media Coverage of Climate Science

Callison, Candis. 2014. "Reporting on Climate Change." In *How Climate Change Comes To Matter* Durham: Duke University Press, 81-120.

Doyle, Julie, Nathan Farrell and Michael K. Goodman. "Celebrities and Climate Change." In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Climate Change*.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228620.013.596>

The Inconvenient Truth (Documentary, 2006)

Feb 20: Scientists as Advocates

Callison, Candis. 2014. "Negotiating Risk, Expertise and Near-Advocacy." In *How Climate Change Comes To Matter* Durham: Duke University Press, 162-200.

Climate Change by Numbers (TV Movie, 2015)

Theme 2: Picturizing Environmental Change

Feb 27: Environmental Change in Art History

Ortiz, Diego Arguedas. 28 May 2020. "The Climate Change Clues Hidden in Art History" BBC Culture <https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20200528-the-climate-change-clues-hidden-in-art-history>

John E. Thornes. 2008. "Cultural Climatology and the Representation of Sky, Atmosphere, Weather and Climate in Selected Art Works of Constable, Monet and Eliasson." *Geoforum* 39: 570-580.

March 5: Photographing Contaminated Landscapes

Berger, John. 1980. "Understanding a Photograph." In *Classic Essays on Photography*. Ed. Alan Trachtenberg. New Haven." Leete's Island Books: 291-4.

Peebles, Jennifer. 2011. "Toxic Sublime: Imaging Contaminated Landscapes." In *Environmental Communication: A Journal of Nature and Culture*, 5(4): 373-392.

<https://www.edwardburtynsky.com/>

March 12: Forensic Photography

Beil, Kim. Nov. 27, 2020. "Photography has gotten climate change wrong from the start." *The Atlantic*. <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/11/photography-has-never-known-how-handle-climate-change/617224/>

Weizman, Eyal and Ines. 2017. *Before and After: Documenting the Architecture of Disaster*. Moscow: Strelka Press.

Theme 3: Picturizing the Experience of Climate Change

March 19: Getting Beyond Numbers/Intersections with Histories of Toxicity

Hinkel, Jochen. 2012. "Climate Impacts: From Numbers to Stories." In *Reframing the Problem of Climate Change* Eds. Carlo C. Jaeger, Klaus Hasselmann, Gerd Leipold, Diana Mangalagu and J. David Tabara. Abingdon, Oxon: Earthscan, 35-53.

Bullard, Robert. "Race and Environmental Justice in the United States" 18 *Yale Journal of International Law*. 319(1993)

"Climate Change and Environmental Justice: A Conversation with Dr. Robert Bullard"

Beasts of the Southern Wild (Film, 2012)

March 26: Climate Change as Affect

Massumi, Brian. 2005. "Fear (The Spectrum Said)." *Positions* 13(1): 31-.

The Day After Tomorrow (Film, 2004)

April 2: Climate Change as Everyday Violence

Hobbs-Morgan, Chase. 2017. "Climate Change, Violence, and Film." In *Political Theory* 45(1): 76-96.

Half-Life (Film, 2008)

Theme 4: Picturizing the Future

April 9: Climate Scenarios

Hulme, Mike and Suraje Dessai. 2008. "Negotiating Future Climates for Public Policy: A Critical Assessment of the Development of Climate Scenarios for the UK." In *Environmental Science & Policy* 11: 54-70.

IPCC Emissions Scenarios

<https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/sres-en.pdf>

3-4pm: Student Presentations

April 16: Closing Off/Opening Up Futures Through Art

Mahoney, March. 2016. "Picturing the Future-Conditional: Montage and the Global Geographies of Climate Change." In *Geography and Environment* 3(2): 1-18.

<https://www.sarahcameronsunde.com/project/36-5/>

<http://www.environmentalgraphiti.org/art-graph-call-to-action>

<http://www.digiart21.org/art/slurb>

3-4pm: Student Presentations

April 23: Final Discussion: Can Pictures Make a Difference?

<https://artistsandclimatechange.com/2020/07/22/black-artists-and-storytellers-on-the-climate-crisis-introducing-a-new-series/>

<https://artistsandclimatechange.com/tag/black-artists-and-storytellers/>

3-4pm: Student Presentations (only if necessary)

