

ENGLISH 199: Interdisciplinary Writing - Natural Sciences Climate Writing for Social Impact



LOCATION/TIME: MWF 12:30-1:20 **MGH 082**

INSTRUCTOR: Judy Twedt

OFFICE: ATG 402

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 3:30 - 4:30pm Wednesday 9:15 - 10:15 am or by appt

EMAIL: jtwedt@uw.edu

ITEMS NEEDED: a high-quality, paper writing journal

CLASS OVERVIEW

Climate Change touches nearly every aspect of society, and threatens the health and well being of people and ecosystems on every corner of the earth. To prevent further harm to society and the natural world, we must transform the way we relate to the physical environment.

In this course, we will read and write for social impact. Over the course of three major assignments, you will learn how to read and distill climate science and craft news

stories, to influence and shape public opinion about climate change, and to expand public imagination of what's possible. You will meet with scientists and professional writers, participate in peer-review and writing conferences, and learn science writing as a social, civic, and artful practice.

Here's a [visual overview \(Links to an external site.\)](#) of the architecture of this course.

This class is linked with ATMS111, a course on the science of global warming and climate change. You must be taking or have recently taken ATMS 111 in order to be in this class.

CLASS VALUES

- Commitment to excellence and rigor. Climate change threatens our health, ecosystems, food systems, culture, and economy. This class will build your power to influence and shape public perception of climate change and solutions through the craft of writing.
- Commitment to respect, equity, inclusion. Implicit bias and other forms of discrimination exist and are pervasive in society. I will aim to skillfully bring explicit awareness of group dynamics into the learning space, by asking you to pay attention to who is speaking and listening, to be respectful of the perspectives that are shared. Our interactions, what we learn from peers, the attentiveness that we bring to the time together are essential parts of the learning process.
- Have some fun. The learning process isn't always fun and enjoyable, but it can and should be at least some of the time!
- Overcoming fear and shame . These emotions often play an outsized and detrimental role in the classroom. By acknowledging them, they start to loosen their grip on us so that we can be more curious and exploratory in our learning.

Writing is a reflective process that goes hand-in-hand with reading. The structure of this class is designed to foster supportive community for discussion, feedback, and inspiration for your writing. You will also have many opportunities to practice writing short, low-stakes pieces.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

Three Main Writing Projects (60% of total grade)

1. Writing to Inform: Science Journalism 20%

2. Writing to Persuade: OpEd 20%

3. Writing to Transform the World: Creative Climate Storytelling 20%

Peer Review (15% of total grade)

For each writing project, everyone in the class will give and receive constructive feedback.

Weekly Exercises (25% of total grade)

To help support and guide you through the writing process, there will be short sequenced assignments designed to help you develop your writing projects.

SUBMITTING WRITTEN WORK

All assignments will be posted on Canvas and submitted through Canvas with one exception: your journal. Documents must be submitted in Word unless otherwise noted. If for any reason, Canvas is down at the time of submission, you must email me your assignment.

You may submit assignments (except peer review) up to 48 hours late for *partial credit*. I highly encourage you to submit your work on time, but if you miss the deadline, it is much better to turn it in late than not at all! In most cases, I will not provide feedback on unexcused late work.

If you are facing *extraordinary circumstances* that affect your ability to turn in an assignment on time, please talk to me at least one day in advance. In rare cases, I will allow late submissions without a grade penalty.

Peer reviews must be submitted on time and you must be in class to participate in peer review. Late work will NOT be accepted for peer review.

When you submit your work, be sure to:

- Include your name in the upper left of the first page and a title
- Times New Roman or Calibri font (12 pt)
- Proofread for typos, grammar, and spelling
- Proper citations if referring to other published work (more about this later)

GRADING SCALE

Final Drafts of 3 Major Papers:

4 - excellent

3.5 - very good

3 - good

2.5 - satisfactory

2 - partially incomplete OR late and complete

1.5 - largely incomplete

1 - late but incomplete

Peer Review and Weekly Exercises will be graded as follows:

2 - complete

1 - partially complete or complete but turned in late

0 - not submitted **Extra**

Credit:

Submit an approx 200-word Letter to the Editor (LTE) from a newspaper of your choice, on a topic relating to climate science, environment, public health, or clean energy. [Here are submission guidelines for the Seattle Times](#)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

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*You must bcc me in your email when you submit this to the editor. **This extra credit can replace 1 peer-review or 1 weekly exercise.** Let me know if your letter is published and we will celebrate!*

LTE's may be submitted up until December 1st.

WRITING RESOURCES

I encourage you to take advantage of the following writing resources available to you at no charge!

- The CLUE Writing Center in Mary Gates Hall is open Sunday to Thursday from 7pm to midnight. The graduate tutors can help you with your claims, organization, and grammar. You do not need to make an appointment, so arrive early and be prepared to wait.

- The Odegaard Writing and Research Center is an excellent resource. Conference with a writing tutor in a 45-minute session. Make an appointment on the website: www.depts.washington.edu/owrc
- [\(Links to an external site.\)](#) • .
- The Writing Center at UW-Tacoma has [excellent online resources](#).
- [Links to an external site.](#)

UW GOOGLE SUITE:

Some class documents will be shared via the google-docs through the UW G-suite.

[UW G Suite account \(step-](#)

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, is presenting someone else's ideas or writing as your own. In your writing for this class, you are encouraged to refer to other people's thoughts and writing, as long as you cite them.

If you are in a position where you're tempted to plagiarize, it probably means there's something else going on. Perhaps you're having trouble understanding what the assignment is asking you to do, or you're struggling to manage the multiple obligations of being a college student. These are totally understandable dilemmas, so please come talk to me about the source of the problem (so we can work on solving it) instead of creating a more serious problem for yourself by plagiarizing.

As a matter of policy, any student found plagiarizing any piece of writing in this class will be reported to the College of Arts and Sciences for review. For more information, refer to UW's Student Conduct Code at:

www.washington.edu/students/handbook/conduct.html

PREFERRED NAME AND PRONOUNS

Professional courtesy and sensitivity are important. I will gladly honor your request to address you by your preferred name or gender pronoun. Please advise me early in the quarter.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you need accommodation of any sort, please don't hesitate to talk to me about it so that I can work with the UW Disability Services Office (DSO) to provide what you require. More information about accommodation may be found at <http://www.washington.edu/admin/dso/>.

UW SAFECAMPUS






















Preventing violence is everyone's responsibility. If you're concerned, tell someone.















- Always call 911 if you or others may be in danger.
- Call **206-685-SAFE (7233)** to report non-urgent threats of violence and for referrals to UW counseling and/or safety resources. TTY or VP callers, please call through your preferred relay service.
- Don't walk alone. Campus safety guards can walk with you on campus after dark. Call Husky NightWalk 206-685-WALK (9255).
- Stay connected in an emergency with UW Alert. Register your mobile number to receive instant notification of campus emergencies via text and voice messaging. Sign up online at **www.washington.edu/alert**

For more information visit the SafeCampus website: www.washington.edu/safecampus

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Fri Sep 27, 2019	 Week 0 -- Getting familiar with climate news sources	due by 12:30pm
Wed Oct 2, 2019	 The Art of the Interview	due by 12:30pm
Thu Oct 3, 2019	 Reading Hannah Hickey	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 4, 2019	 Pre-interviews	due by 11:59pm
Wed Oct 9, 2019	 Readings about writing a pitch	due by 12pm
Thu Oct 10, 2019	 The Pitch Version 1 (due Thursday)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Oct 11, 2019	 Questions for Tom James	due by 12:30pm
	 Interview Notes and Source Material	due by 7pm
Mon Oct 14, 2019	 The Pitch Version 2 (due Monday)	due by 12:30pm
Wed Oct 16, 2019	 Draft and Peer Review	due by 11am
Fri Oct 25, 2019	 Final Draft: Feature Story	due by 9pm
Mon Oct 28, 2019	 Reading to Write: OpEds	due by 11:30am
Wed Oct 30, 2019	 OpEd Pitch	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 1, 2019	 In-class exercise in vivid, descriptive language	due by 1:20pm
Mon Nov 4, 2019	 Draft and Peer Review 2	due by 12:30pm
Wed Nov 6, 2019	 Reading Kendra Pierre Louise NOTE: we'll meet upstairs in the career center on Wednesday for this conversation!	due by 12:30pm
Fri Nov 8, 2019	 Speculative Fiction Brainstorm	due by 1:30pm
	 OpEd - Final Draft	due by 11:59pm
Fri Nov 15, 2019	 New Genres for climate writing: immersive journalism and fiction	due by 12:30pm
	 Reading for Friday 11/15	due by 1:30pm
	 Feature Story Revised (OPTIONAL)	due by 11:59pm

Mon Nov 18, 2019	 Reading for 11/18. (reverse pitch)	due by 11:30am
Wed Nov 20, 2019	 Reading for 11/20	due by 11:30am
	 Climate Fiction Pitch	due by 11:59pm
Thu Nov 21, 2019	 Reading for 11/22 : Convo with Freelance Journalist Wudan Yan	due by 9pm
Fri Nov 22, 2019	 Conversation with Wudan Yan	due by 1:30pm
Mon Nov 25, 2019	 Reading for 11/25	due by 11:30am
Wed Nov 27, 2019	 Listening for 11/27	due by 12:30pm
Sun Dec 1, 2019	 Holiday Weekend Peer Review	due by 11:59pm
Mon Dec 2, 2019	 Peer Review 3	due by 11am
Wed Dec 4, 2019	 End of Class Reflection	due by 1:30pm
Tue Dec 10, 2019	 Final Draft 3	due by 5pm
	 Class exercise: rewriting "Factory Air"	
	 Extra Credit: Attend and review the college of environment science communication event on November 12th	
	 Writing workshop: character, dilemma, catalyst	