

Mount Holyoke College, Fall 2014
Environmental Studies 390

Senior Seminar in Environmental Studies



Lauret E. Savoy: Clapp 326, x2125, lsavoy@mtholyoke.edu

Class: M 1:15-4:05, Clapp 327

Office Hours: Tu 10:30-noon, W 10:30-11:00 am, Th 10:45-noon, and by appointment on Tu & Th

Caro Pinto: Embedded Librarian & ePortfolio Guide, Library 432A, x3570, cpinto@mtholyoke.edu

Course Description

This seminar is yours, an opportunity for senior majors to consider critical intersections of environmental studies that are important to you, and that are of different scales in time and space—local to global, past to present. The course is also meant to be a space for you to explore, in collaboration with the Career Development Center and LITS, what you'd like to do after graduation.

Each of you comes with a different background, perspective, and expertise. I hope we can make this a capstone experience, allowing you to build on your knowledge and interests, to teach and learn from each other, and to integrate pieces more fully. Readings, ePortfolios, student-led dialogues, and collaborative and independent work will allow you to explore a range of issues in class, in reflection and action, and also for projects. We will have the opportunity to do community-based work based on your interests.

Texts and Other Materials

Class handouts and on-line materials

Elizabeth Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction*

Frances Moore Lappé, *EcoMind: Changing the Way We Think, to Create the World We Want*

Carolyn Merchant, *Radical Ecology: The Search for a Livable World* (2nd edition)

Alan Weisman, *The World Without Us*

Highly recommended (for current events each week): *Common Dreams*, *EENews.net* (*Greenwire*, *Environment & Energy News*, etc.), *New York Times*

Course Requirements and Policy

Regular and punctual class attendance, careful reading of the assignments, and active, prepared participation are essential and required for an evaluation. All of us will be responsible for leading class dialogues and giving oral presentations occasionally. Writing is also a major component of the course. Three short papers, one op-ed, your ePortfolio, and your seminar project (equivalent in scope to a 15- to 20-page research paper) are required for an evaluation and must be submitted on time. Evaluations will be determined in the following manner:

Class participation (presentations, class dialogues, peer work etc.)	20%
Three short essays/response papers (2-5 pages)	20%
Op-ed (drafted and ready to submit)	10%
Completed ePortfolio	25%
Seminar project (Final paper and presentation)	25%



Schedule of Topics

9/8 Introductions & Finding Our Bearings What We'll Do Exploring Project Ideas

Class visitors:

Caro Pinto, "Embedded Yes! Librarian" and ePortfolio guide
Alan Bloomgarden, Director of Community-Based Learning (CBL)/community partnerships

*CDC survey for 9/10:

https://docs.google.com/a/mtholyoke.edu/forms/d/1TRA4ETHNCXnq6xLg_QizlCJjx5z4uYl-yWlF9_OIKv0/viewform

9/15 Reflecting on Next Steps with the CDC Where Are We? Class Dialogue!

Class visitors:

Liz Lierman and Megan Godorov, CDC
Caro Pinto, "Embedded Yes! Librarian" and ePortfolio guide

*Response Paper/Essay #1 due in class on 9/15

9/22 ePortfolio Boot Camp with Caro Pinto

*ePortfolio: First Steps (Guided Reflection & Contextualizing in Online Landscape)
due 9/22 in Google Drive folder

9/29 Imagining Earth Without Us Sharing Seminar Projects

Reading -

Alan Weisman, *The World Without Us*

*Short Proposal for Seminar Project due on 9/29

10/6 ePortfolio Working Time Alumnae Gathering – First Planning Steps

*ePortfolio: Draft Professional Biography and "Bones" of Site due 10/6 in Google Drive folder

10/13 Fall Break!

10/20 Radical Ecologies from Thought to Movements: Deep Ecology, Social Ecology, Spiritual Ecology, Ecofeminism, Green Politics and Social Justice

Reading -
Carolyn Merchant, *Radical Ecology* (2nd edition)

10/27 Working Day

*Response Paper/Essay #2 due on 10/27 in class



11/3 A World of Extinction?

Reading -
Elizabeth Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction*

11/10 EcoMind

Frances Moore Lappé on Skype!

Individual Actions v. Limiting Ideas: Is Living Democracy Possible?

Reading -
Frances Moore Lappé, *EcoMind: Changing the Way We Think to Create the World We Want*

*Response Paper/Essay #3 due on 11/10 in class

11/17 Op-Ed – Joining the Public Debate

*ePortfolio: Polished Professional Biography and Photograph due 11/17 in Google Drive folder

11/24 Showcasing Our Own Work & Projects

12/1 Showcasing Our Own Work & Projects

12/8 Showcasing Our Own Work & Projects

*Seminar Projects & Final Op-Eds due on a date in December that we all agree on (tbd by us)

Additional Course Guidelines

Accommodations for Students with Special Needs

You should register with AccessAbility Services, located in Wilder Hall B4
(www.mtholyoke.edu/accessability/for_students and 413-538-2634)

Staff in the office will provide you the appropriate letter, which you should give to me.

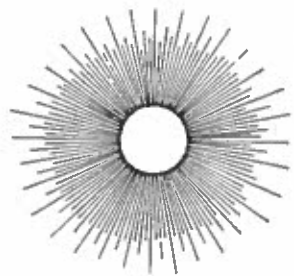
Policy on Sources and Citations

In your writing, you must cite all sources fully – whether you quote word-for-word, paraphrase, or rely more generally on ideas from another source or use a source we have all read. This responsibility extends to both printed and online sources. There are many acceptable citation formats: at a minimum, a citation should include the author, title of the work, and place and date of publication. Our concern is not so much plagiarism or “cheating” as the need to take part in a mature discourse about ideas, acknowledging sources that shape your thought and contributing to that ongoing conversation. It is an intellectual question, more than a concern with potential dishonesty. For detailed discussion of such matters: www.mtholyoke.edu/lits/ris/Plagiarism. Failure to use sources appropriately is a violation of the college Honor Code and will be punished.

SAW Center

The Speaking, Arguing, and Writing (SAW) Program is an excellent resource for student writers. It is staffed by students who are trained as peer writing mentors.

See <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/saw> or call 413-538-2651 or 413-538-2173. The SAW Center is located in the MEWS on the main floor of Dwight Hall. Its hours: Mon & Tues 3-9pm; Wed & Thurs 9am-12pm, 3-9pm; Friday 9am-12pm; Sunday 1-9pm



****A Few Important Events Beyond Class Hours****

Carrie Mae Weems, "Art and Humanity," Thursday, September 18, 2014, 7:00 PM, Gamble Auditorium, Art Building and a Student Leadership and Careers Luncheon with Carrie Mae Weems, Friday, September 19, 12:15 pm, Willits-Hallowell Center.
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/wcl/events/leading_women_arts

Weems is Mount Holyoke College's Leading Woman in the Arts guest artist-in-residence, and a social justice educator who bridges art and humanity through a complex body of work that investigates family relationships, gender roles, the histories of racism, sexism, class, and various political systems.

16th Annual North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival, Sept 27 and 28, 2014

Celebrate sweet [and stinkin'] sixteen – that's years of the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival, September 27 and 28 in Orange Massachusetts. There's something for everyone at this fabulous family destination, held on a beautiful historic farm amidst autumn foliage. <http://garlicandarts.org/>

Poet, essayist, and environmentalist, **Alison Hawthorne Deming**, will read and speak from her new book *Zoologic: On Animals and the Human Spirit*, on **Monday, October 20, 7:00 pm**, Poetry Center, Smith College. She will give a longer, broader reading of her work on **Tuesday, October 21, 7:30 pm**, Stoddard Hall Auditorium, Smith College.

Deming stands at the crossroads of art and science. Winner of the Walt Whitman Award for her first book, *Science and Other Poems*, she has published three collections since, as well as four books of nonfiction, including the recently-released *Zoologic: On Animals and the Human Spirit*.

The 2014 Carol Hoffmann Collins Global Scholar-in-Residence at Mount Holyoke College is **Leymah Gbowee**, 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate for her role in bringing an end to the civil war in her native Liberia. She will give a keynote lecture on **Thursday, October 23rd** (Gamble Auditorium, 7 pm) "Women's Leadership: Ending Wars and Building Peace." <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/global>

Poets **Nikky Finney and Elizabeth Alexander Together, Tuesday, November 4, 7:30 pm**, Weinstein Auditorium, Wright Hall, Smith College & **Wednesday, November 5** "A Conversation on Otelia Cromwell Day," 4:00 pm, Neilson Library Browsing Room, Smith College.

Nikky Finney's poems provide glimpses into the adventures of birth, death, family, violence, sexuality, and relationships, exploring the soul of human community. She is the author of four books of poetry, most recently *Head Off e's Split*, winner of the 2011 National Book Award. Her work reaches from the personal into the collective with equal measures of love and rage. A founding member of Affrilachian Poets and the Conkling Poet at Smith in 2007-2008, Finney is a member of the faculty of Cave Canem and the Provost's Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Kentucky.

Elizabeth Alexander's is a vital and vivid poetic voice on race, gender, politics, and motherhood. She is the author of five books of poetry, including *American Sublime*, one of three finalists for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize, and *Crave Radiance: New e's Selected Poems*. As the Chicago Tribune put it, "Her poems make the public and private dance together." Alexander is also a scholar and author of *The Black Interior*, a book of essays. She was the Conkling Poet at Smith from 1997-1999 and the first director of the Poetry Center. Currently at Yale University, she composed and read her poem "Praise Song for the Day" at Barack Obama's presidential inauguration in 2009.

Mayda del Valle, "The Power of Poetic Expression and Connection," on November 6, 7:00 PM, Gamble Auditorium, Art Building. Sponsored by the Weissman Center for Leadership.
<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/wcl/events/mayda-del-valle>

Plus author readings at the Odyssey Bookshop (<http://www.odysseybks.com/event/month>) and more!!