Environmental Film Series
COMM/ESRM 496  Fall Semester 2014

Dr. Clare Wormald Steele
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Office: Bell Tower 1191
Office Hours: M 12pm to 2pm (and by appointment)
Class : W 8:00pm to 9:50pm
Take home final due: Wednesday December 12th at 8:00pm

Please note that parts of this syllabus are subject to change.

Course Description (from the CSUCI University Catalog)
Uses current and classic environmental films and documentaries to address current environmental issues.

Overview
The general theme running through this semester’s films is ‘water’. Water is an essential component in environmental systems, necessary for life and has the power to influence social structure and civilizations. California’s current historic drought highlights the importance of water. Water, and the challenges associated with it, illustrate many of our current environmental concerns. This semester we will take a journey from the headwaters to the oceans and discover many environmental issues along the way.

The films chosen have several common elements: there is the combination of visual, audio and narrative that both inform and entertain; there is the journey and adventure of exploring the environmental issue within its geographical context and there is the powerful environmental message that is conveyed by the film. All of these combine to give power to that message so that we see, understand, and are also captivated and entertained.

We will discover not only these environmental messages, but also a sense of place and being in the world. We will explore the diversity of earth’s landscapes, appreciate the beauty of the world and understand the value in its conservation.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes
Foster an awareness of environmental issues, critically evaluate the video presentations addressing these environmental concerns whilst developing presentation and discussion skills.

1 Allen 2010. Antiquity 84:86-102
Expectations
Prompt attendance and active, enthusiastic participation in viewings and discussion is mandatory and will be reflected in your grades as detailed below.

Respect is one of the foundations of an environment conducive to learning. This class will have a positive and respectful learning environment. In class discussions, everyone should be courteous and respectful of others: disrespectful comments or behavior will not be tolerated. This includes silencing your cell phones, avoiding web surfing, etc.

Note taking during viewing
I strongly encourage you to take notes on the films we view both on the overall themes and specific scenes or messages that you think are important, controversial, and particularly that you have a strong reaction to. Your notes will facilitate our subsequent discussions which are an important part of interpreting and analyzing the films we view.

General questions to consider whilst watching films, for later discussion
Which part or parts of the film particularly resonated with you personally, and why?
Was the filmmaker’s fundamental message or story clearly presented?
Did the film present a balanced viewpoint or did it have a strong agenda or message?
Which part or parts of the visual or audio presentation was most impactful?
Did you find common ground between your and the filmmaker’s point of view?
Does what you have seen change your perspective on the issue?
How do these messages relate to your family, peer-group or wider community?

Evaluation
40% Presentation of film and leading discussion
35% Attendance and active participation in discussion
5% Presentation of ‘Film Festival’ short or animation
20% Take home final write up on one of topics covered

Grade Break Down: A = 90-100%, B = 80-89%, C = 70-79%, D = 60-69%, F ≤ 59%
Please note that I use the "+" and "-" system (e.g. B- = 80-82%, B = 83–86%, B+ = 87-89, etc)

Disability statement:
I am committed to equal educational opportunities for all of my students. Students with disabilities will receive reasonable accommodation for learning and evaluation. CSUCI’s Disability Resource Programs exist to help disabled students realize their academic and personal potential. Students with disabilities requesting accommodation should make requests to Disability Resource Programs, Bell Tower 1541, (805) 437-3331. All requests for accommodations require advance notice to avoid a delay in services. Please discuss approved accommodations with faculty. Anyone interested in being a note taker for Disability Resource Programs for this or any other class should feel free to contact DRP.
**Proposed Schedule** (Note: This schedule may be subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Film</th>
<th>Presenter and Discussion Leaders (1COMM &amp; 1ESRM)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/27/14</td>
<td>Introduction - Chasing Water, The Questions We Ask</td>
<td>CWS</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/3/14</td>
<td>Damnation</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/10/14</td>
<td>Salt</td>
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<td>9/24/14</td>
<td>Into The Cold</td>
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<td>10/8/14</td>
<td>Blue Gold - World Water Wars</td>
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<td>10/22/14</td>
<td>The Last Ocean</td>
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<td>10/29/14</td>
<td>Tapped</td>
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<td>11/5/14</td>
<td>Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch / Plasticized</td>
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<td>11/19/14</td>
<td>Chasing Ice</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td>12/3/14</td>
<td>Film Festival – Animations &amp; Shorts</td>
<td>All</td>
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**Cheating, Plagiarism, and Other Forms of Academic Dishonesty**

All work that you submit as your own work must, in fact, be your own work. For example, if your paper presents the ideas of others, you must clearly indicate this by citing the source. Word-for-word language taken from other sources – books, papers, web sites, people, etc. – must be placed in quotation marks and the source identified. Likewise, work on tests and exams must be your own work, not copied or taken from other students’ work, and you must comply with instructions regarding use of books, notes, and other materials.

In accordance with the CSU Channel Islands policy on academic dishonesty, students in this course who submit the work of others as their own (plagiarize), cheat on examinations, help other students cheat or plagiarize, or commit other acts of academic dishonesty will receive appropriate academic penalties, up to and including failing the course and expulsion.

Papers with plagiarized ideas or language will be graded “F” and must be rewritten with proper use of quotations and referencing. The grade of “F” will remain the recorded grade on that assignment. Plagiarism or cheating on exams will result in an “F” on that exam, very likely resulting in a lower or possibly a failing final grade in the course overall. In cases where I have reason to believe the cheating or plagiarism was premeditated or planned, students may receive an “F” for the course.

Please consult with me on when and how to document sources if you have any possible questions about what might constitute an act of plagiarism or cheating.