

Spanish 466
"Culture and the Environment in the Hispanic World"

Class Description:

The Anthropocene is a recently coined name for the epoch when humans shape their environment with a force comparable to a geological event. Even if the beginning of the Anthropocene could be dated back to the appearance of the steam engine, the awareness of the Anthropocene, which provides the framework for this class, is born only in the 21st century. In the course of the semester, we will investigate how economy and culture work together, consuming and/or restoring their environments in divergent scenarios of the Anthropocene. Applying perspectives from environmental humanities, we will countervail economic discourses with stories "from below", featuring human and non-human experiences resulting from existing cultural and economic arrangements. From scenarios of the expansion of a neoliberal global economy, we will move to those of resistance (environmentalism of the poor) and alternative economies (local currencies, eco-villages), where we will encounter new economic theories (ecological economics), and new social movements that seek to live by respecting their local environments. Focusing on chosen localities in the Hispanic World, we will discuss some of the most significant aspects of culture, economy and environment in the global economy and in de-growth scenarios: (1) cultures of food production and consumption, biotechnology, agro-ecology and permaculture (2) cultures and economies of time and work, (3) cultures of energy production, oil, hydraulic dams and bio-combustibles, and last but not least (4) cultures of education, that will lead us towards considering innovations in our own classroom.

Learning outcomes:

- 1) Finding out how culture, environment and economy are interconnected in Hispanic world
- 2) Getting to know and understanding various new trans-disciplinary conceptualizations coined in Hispanic cultures and aimed at improving human relationship with the environment
- 3) Becoming critically aware of various environmental conflicts in Latin America
- 4) Reflecting on alternative cultures and sustainable economies emerging in Spain and in the Americas

Components of the Class and of the Final Grade:

I. Argumentative mini paper (200 words)	5%
II Analytical short paper (400 words)	10%
III. Argumentative long paper (600 words)	15%
IV. Analytical long paper (800 words)	20%
Oral Presentation in groups	10%

Participation in Class Discussions	20%
Quizzes	20%

Papers:

Paper I is due on Friday, Sept 9th.

Papers II and III are due any day of their respective sections II and III, on the day that the material you write about is discussed.

Paper IV is due between Nov 26th and Dec 2nd.

Please, use Times New Roman Font 12 pts, write with 1,5 space between lines and live 1,5" right margin.

No rewrites.

No lengthy introductions, write to the point from the beginning of the paper.

Please, proofread your essay several times before turning it in. **You may ask your classmate or a friend for feedback and help. This is NOT against class policy. However, plagiarism (which is a different matter) will not be tolerated.**

Write about what interests you and make your reader enjoy your interpretation. Make it thoughtful, original and well supported by evidence drawn from films and texts.

Quizzes:

Instead of exams, there will be a number of short surprise quizzes examining your knowledge of the readings and films assigned and of the concepts discussed in class.

Oral presentation prepared in a small group will familiarize class with local alternative economies focused, among others, on environmental issues. It should be 15 minutes long.

90-100% participation grade - consistently present, always prepared, contributes insightful comments.

80-90% participation grade -

This class is a team work. Please help make it work. If you notice a problem with a reading, a movie, a date, class dynamics or any other, please share it with the teacher and/or with others, suggesting how to fix it.

Only three "free" absences are granted. All additional absences may result in loss of 5% of the grade for each. Only 10% of this component is earned by the presence. *However, if you are really sick, do not come to class or to my office. Stay at home and e-mail me.*

Syllabus

I. Anthropocene/ Antropoceno

7 Introducciones. Antropoceno y el realismo inquietante.

<http://www.anthropocene.info>

9 Debates sobre el Antropoceno. Mike Davis: *Who will build the Ark?*

Argumentative mini paper (AP): Cómo vivir en la época del Antropoceno?

II. Economía, cultura, ambiente: análisis

Analytical paper: Analiza las relaciones entre economía, cultura y el ambiente que surgen de una de las obras (texto, película, o una o mas viñetas de Brieva) de esta sección. (Entrega el ensayo el día de la clase cuando se discuta el tema.)

12. *Biutiful*. Dir. Alejandro González Iñárritu

14 Rob Nixon. *Slow violence*. Introduction.

16 Miguel Brieva. *Memorias de la tierra*.

19 Darío Alejandro Escobar. "Demasiado ricos para ser verdes."

21 *Crisis y revolución en Europa*. -1 Observatorio metropolitano (1-36)

23 Manuel Castells. "A Rhizomatic Revolution: Indignadas in Spain"

OP -1: Manuel Castells. "Occupy Wall Street: Harvesting the Salt of the Earth" and/or other sources

III. Economía, Cultura, Ambiente: Re-visiones.

AP: En esta sección, escoge el planteamiento que te resulta convincente y escribe un ensayo explicando por qué.

26 Economía ecológica. I. Jorge Riechmann. *Un mundo vulnerable* (fragmentos)

28 Economía ecológica II Jorge Riechmann "De límites, sólo de límites," "Lo sencillo es hermoso"

30 Economía ecológica III. Walter Alberto Pengue. "La economía ecológica y el desarrollo en América Latina."

October

3 Ecofeminismo y economía feminista. Mini charlas online. Escucha a Yayo Herrero y a Amaia Pérez Orosco.

<https://www.traficantes.net/nociones-comunes/el-capital-contra-la-vida>

5 El tiempo y la educación. Shahjahad. "Being Lazy."

7 Jorge Riechmann "'Tiempo para la vida." James Hatley "Aion" (PO-2)

10 Susie O'Brian. "Desert Walk". (PO-2)

12 Elizabeth Johnson "Biomimicry".

14 Jorge Riechmann. "Biomímesis"

IV. Contextos locales. Economías destructivas, resistencia y re-existencia.

Analytical Paper: Escoge uno de los siguientes temas; (1) petróleo, (2) agua, (3) minería, (4) modificación genética de semillas y explica cómo se realizan sus economías en diferentes contextos materiales y culturales. Este ensayo es el más importante. Se entrega lo más tarde entre el 26 de noviembre y el 2 de diciembre).

17 Madrid: Fight for commons. "Cultivating the Square; Trash, Recycling and the Cultural Ecology of Post-Crisis Madrid" por Matthew Fainberg and Susan Larson.

19 Barcelona: Joana Conill et al. "Beyond the Crisis; The Emergence of Alternative Economic Practices"

21 España y Alter-globalización: Meet Juan del Río. *Guía del movimiento de la Transición.*

24 Miguel Ortega Cerdá. Coord. *Deuda ecológica.*

26 Galicia: John Threvatan. "Nunca Mais: Ecological Collectivism and the Prestige Disaster."

28 Ecuador: *Crude* (2009). Dir. Joe Berlinger.

31 Ecuador: Susana Sawyer. "Subterranean Techniques: Corporate Environmentalism, Oil Operation and the social Injustice in the Ecuatorian Rain Forest."

November

2 Bolivia: Conflicto sobre el agua en Bolivia. *También la lluvia* (2010). Dir. Iciar Bollain

4 Itaipú Dam. Lecture. Sci Hall 15

7 Brasil. Trash. *Wasteland*. Invited lecture. Micah McKay

9 México: Turismo. Candace Slater. "Xarcet as Icon and Spectacle," "Icon and Spectacle in Punta Laguna."

11 Argentina: TED Talk by Gustavo Grobocopatel, *Hambre de soja*. (2004) Dir. Marcelo Viñas.

14 Paraguay: Kregg Hetherington. "Beans Before the Law"

16 Open seed initiative UW-Madison, Invited Speaker: Clair Lubby.

18 Paraguay: *Rising Resistance*. Dir. David Bernet and Bettina Borgfeld.

21. Mexico. *Sunú*. Dir. Teresa Camou. Debate sobre maíz.

Thanksgiving

28. Mexico Proyecto Alternativas: Agua para siempre.

30 Maquilópolis. (2006) Dir. Vicki Funari and Sergio de la Torre.

December

2 Sleepdealer. (2008) Dir. Alex Rivera.

5 POEG (Presentaciones orales en grupos) Iniciativas locales

7 POEG Iniciativas locales

9 POEG Iniciativas locales

12 TBA

14 Evaluaciones y Repaso