

ENG 6075: 
Blue Ecocriticism and Environmental Humanities
F 6-8
NRN 1001
Sid Dobrin
Office Hours: By Appointment
sdobrin@ufl.edu

Description

This course will work toward developing a vital theory of oceanic criticism and methodologies that extend work in environmental humanities. This class is designed to explore blue ecocriticism and its relationship with ecocriticism, in general, and the emergence of the environmental humanities. By way of blue ecocriticism, this course will consider the nascent role the “new thalassology,” blue humanities, and/or blue cultural studies play in the evolution of the environmental humanities. Fundamentally, this course will examine blue ecocriticism’s influence on critical approaches to literary studies and writing studies. At minimum, the course will ask, how have we written about the oceans and what are the ramifications of those writings. Readings and discussions will consider a rich range of subjects all bound by the global ocean to the end of invigorating oceanic thinking.

Texts: Required

Alaimo, Stacy. *Exposed: Environmental Politics and Pleasures in Posthuman Times*. University of Minnesota Press (2016). 978-0816628384

Carson, Rachel. *Under the Sea Wind*. Penguin Classics (2007). 978-0143104964 [Note: Any edition will do]

Grant, Mira. *Into the Drowning Deep*. Orbit. (2017). 978-0-316-37940-3

Helmreich, Stefan. *Alien Ocean: Anthropological Voyages in Microbial Seas*. University of California Press (2009). 978-0520250628.

Hubbell, J. Andrew and John C. Ryan. *Introduction to the Environmental Humanities*. Routledge (2021). 978-0815391937

Ingersoll, Karin Amimoto. *Waves of Knowing: A Seascape Epistemology*. Duke University Press (2016). 978-0822362340

Jue, Melody. *Wild Blue Media: Thinking through Seawater*. Duke University Press (2020). 978-1478006978

Mentz, Steve. *Ocean (Object Lessons)*. Bloomsbury (2020). 978-1501348631

Solomon, Rivers. *The Deep*. Saga Press (2020). 978-1534439870

Starosielski, Nicole. *The Undersea Network*. Duke University Press (2015). 978-0822357551

Assignments

Ocean Issue Presentation

Each student will deliver a 5-minute presentation to the class about an “ocean issue.” Issues may include, but are not limited to topics such as overfishing, microplastics, climate change, sea level rise, ocean pollution, and so on. The objective of the assignment is to make the class aware of an issue that currently affects the global ocean. Issues may be global or local. The Ocean Issue Presentation may be connected to the Digital Media Project and/or the Seminar Paper but is not required to be. Details regarding the assignment and range of possible topics will be discussed in class.

Digital Media Project

Each student will build/develop/make a media resource about a subject connected to the subjects addressed in class. The Digital Media Project may be connected to the Ocean Issue Presentation and/or the Seminar Paper but is not required to be. Details regarding the assignment, the types of media, and the expectations for the assignment will be discussed in class.

Seminar Paper

Each student will submit a written research paper directed at a conference or publication venue. The papers must directly forward the blue-ecocritical project. The Seminar Paper may be connected to the Digital Media Project and/or the Ocean Issue Presentation but is not required to be. Students should discuss their idea for their paper with Sid before commencing research. Research for the paper needs to extend well beyond the readings for the class.

Seminar Discussion Leader

Each student will lead one day’s seminar discussion about the assigned reading. Choices of readings will be negotiated during the second seminar meeting.

Grading

Final grades will be determined using the following values:

Ocean Issue Presentation	20%
Digital Media Project	20%
Seminar Paper	30%
Seminar Discussion	20%
Participation	10%

Reading Schedule

1/7—Course Introduction

1/14—Hubbell, J. Andrew and John C. Ryan. Introduction to the Environmental Humanities

1/21—Mentz, Steve. Ocean (Object Lessons)

1/28—Carson, Rachel. *Under the Sea Wind* and Solomon, Rivers. *The Deep*

2/4—Alaimo, Stacy. *Exposed: Environmental Politics and Pleasures in Posthuman Times*

2/11—Ingersoll, Karin Amimoto. *Waves of Knowing: A Seascape Epistemology*

2/18—Jue, Melody. *Wild Blue Media: Thinking through Seawater*.

2/25—Starosielski, Nicole. *The Undersea Network*

3/4—[Sid research trip. May reschedule readings depending]

3/11—No class, Spring Break
3/18—Helmreich, Stefan. Alien Ocean: Anthropological Voyages in Microbial Seas
3/25—TBD
4/1—TBD
4/8—No Class, Sid at Shakespeare Association of America Conference
4/15—Grant, Mira. Into the Drowning Deep

Required Syllabus Information.

Attendance

Attendance is expected.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Current UF grading policies

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Course Evaluation Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Student Recordings of Class Lectures

Students may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use, in connection with a complaint to the University, or as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. A “class lecture” is an educational presentation delivered by faculty (including any individual hired or appointed by the University to conduct classroom, teaching activities) or guest lecturer, as part of a University of Florida course, intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject. Students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the faculty or guest. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered to be published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, or leaflet. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.