

This syllabus has been provided as a reference tool for students considering this course. It has been modified to follow Senate regulations. Current students enrolled in any undergraduate course must obtain the most recent syllabus from their course instructor or from their course website. This is not the latest version.



Department of English & Writing Studies

National and Global Perspectives on Cultural Studies **English 2260F (001)** Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. Michael Sloane

Date/Time: Monday 1:30pm-3:30pm
Wednesday 1:30pm-2:30pm

Location: Physics & Astronomy Building 117

Prerequisites

At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course sets out to read and understand the world in a weird way. "All of culture and all of nature get churned up again every day," writes Bruno Latour. And so seemingly clear-cut categories like science, politics, environment, economy, nationality, law, religion, technology, and fiction are, in fact, complexly connected. The "World Wide Web" refers to something other than just the Internet—namely, reality. This course's mode of operation is to survey and scrutinize the ways in which both natural and cultural phenomena are entangled by paying attention to national, international, and environmental relations through critical theory, postcolonialism, and ecocriticism.

Specifically, this course turns to novels, poems, films, comix, and events to think through topics like place, poverty, class, race, trash, slums, animals, food, oil, global warming, disease, viruses, disaster, memes, tourism, terraforming, biopolitics, power, bioterrorism, nation, imperialism, technology, the virtual, toxicity, identity, pollution, violence, and the apocalypse. From Google X's Wi-Fi air balloons flying above impoverished countries to Everyday Carry (EDC) kits attempting to anticipate the unexpected, this course takes the time to slowly think through the implications of artifacts and activities that reveal the messy ways in which natures and nations mix.

Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course will be better able to:

Discuss in detail the Operations of both post colonialism and ecocriticism and how they intersect;

Think analytically about the relationship between nation and nature in the context of cultural studies;

Understand and apply a number of theoretical tools to a wide array of mediums like prose, poetry, film, and media;

Employ critical skills for the formulation of well-organized, logical arguments with appropriate supporting evidence by way of close analysis; and

Use critical theory to micro- and macroscopically scrutinize local and global cultures with an acute awareness of ethical, social, environmental, and political registers.

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

Timetable:

*This syllabus' schedule, assignment weighting, and procedures are subject to change if any unexpected

