

Global Climate Change and Society

Philosophy Syllabus

The philosophy component of our program serves two purposes: it provides the background for overall program themes, as well as a set of readings for the specifically humanistic aspects of questions surrounding global climate change. Class material will raise issues in ontology, interdisciplinarity, epistemology and the philosophy of science, aesthetics, metaphysics, politics, theology, ethics, and the limits to knowledge. Texts will be used either as the site of careful examination, or as general background for a lecture. Students will be asked to volunteer for a 10 minute summary of each day's readings at the beginning of class. My presentation will be lecture style, with questions and discussion heartily encouraged.

Tentative readings, subject to change

Introduction (Monday, June 16)

1. *Geo-Logic*, Ch 1
2. Weisbuch

Lecture 1

1. Latour
2. Borgmann, Ch 1 & 2

Lecture 2

1. Descartes, *DOM*, Ch 1-3
2. Borgmann, Ch 5

Lecture 3

1. Nietzsche, Madman essay
2. Aristotle, *Ethics*, Bk 1, 2, & 6

Lecture 4

Open/catch up day

Lecture 5

1. Allenby
2. Elliott
3. Foltz

Lecture 6

Heidegger

Lecture 7

1. Shattuck
2. Turner
3. Robinson and Herbert

Readings

Allenby	“Earth System Engineering and Management”
Aristotle	<i>Ethics</i> (selections)
Baudrillard	“The Precession of Simulacra” (selection)
Borgmann	<i>Crossing the Post-Modern Divide</i>
Descartes	<i>Discourse on the Method</i> (selections)
Callicott	“The Land Aesthetic”
Elliot	“Faking Nature”
Foltz	“Inhabitation and Orientation”
Frodeman	<i>Geo-Logic</i>
Heidegger	“The Question Concerning Technology” “The Origin of the Work of Art”
Latour	<i>We have Never been Modern</i> (selection)
Miller & Edwards	<i>Changing the Atmosphere</i>
Nietzsche	“Parable of the Madman” (<i>The Gay Science</i>)
Robinson and Herbert	“Integrating Climate Change and Sustainable Development”
Roszak	<i>The Voice of the Earth</i> (selections)
Shattuck	<i>Forbidden Knowledge</i> (selections)
Turner	“What are Disciplines? How is Interdisciplinarity Different?”
Weisbuch	“Six Ways to Revive the Humanities”

Note: this is in part a resource book. We will not try to read all of this material. Readings, and the order of readings, are subject to change. Other handouts will be assigned as needs arise, and you can expect additional readings to be assigned by our evening speakers. Insofar as possible, please read the assignments twice.