

Global Climate Change and Society

Philosophy Syllabus

This seminar serves two purposes: it provides the background for overall program themes, as well as a set of readings for the specifically humanistic aspect of GCCS. Class material will survey 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. Presentation will be lecture style, with questions and discussion heartily encouraged.

Readings (all readings are in our bound photocopy volume)

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> (selections)
Descartes	<i>Discourse on the Method</i> (selections)
Callicott	“The Land Aesthetic”
Elliot	“Faking Nature”
Foltz	“Inhabitation and Orientation”
Frodeman	“Four Images of Science”
Heidegger	“The Question Concerning Technology”
Joy	“Why The Future Doesn't Need Us”
Latour	<i>We have Never been Modern</i> (selection)
Mitcham	<i>Thinking Through Technology</i> (selection)
Nietzsche	“Parable of the Madman” (<i>The Gay Science</i>)
Ophuls	<i>Ecology and the Politics of Scarcity</i> (selections)
Roszak	<i>The Voice of the Earth</i> (selections)
Shattuck	<i>Forbidden Knowledge</i> (selections)
Turner	“What are Disciplines? And 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. See our calendar for daily assignments. Readings, and the order of readings, are subject to change. Other handouts will be assigned as needs arise. There are no grades in this class; we ask only that you read and discuss the material with care.