

ENST 573 Environmental Writing Fall 2017 M/W 11:00-12:20 NAS 202 Phil Condon

Office Hrs JRH 107A: M & W 2-3pm T & TH 12-1pm & by appt. phil.condon@mso.umt.edu 243.2904

Texts: *Tell It Slant*, Miller/Paola, 2nd Ed. 2012 *Pocket Style Manual (PSM)*, Hacker Moodle Rdgs ENST 573.01

Belief, Intent, Hope, Faith: I believe this course will help improve your skills in writing about nature & environmental subjects and concerns for a general audience. I intend the course to inspire, challenge, encourage, and hone your writing and your ability to read as a writer. I hope we can create a community based in honesty, courtesy, commitment to craft, and shared enthusiasms—for good writing and a more wild and thoughtful world. I have faith you will write work that surprises and challenges you, your classmates, and me—work to engage, enliven, educate, and wake up a weary world.

Major Required Writing: 2 original essays, 1st due **MON 10/2**, 2nd due **MON 10/30**. I make line-edit notes keyed to *PSM*; you correct any problems (consult me as needed) and then give me a set of corrected copies for class. Each Wed thereafter, I'll bring 4 student essays for everyone's reading and response: 2 for each of the next week's classes. After workshop, you choose 1 essay for significant revision (if in doubt on which, let's talk). This revision is due on or before **M 12/18**. You may revise both—one for extra credit only—but if so, please turn in at least one of the revisions by **M 11/27**.

---Length: One essay at **1500-3000 words** (5-10 pages) & one at **3000-5000 words** (10-20 pages). These ranges allow quite a potential variation among students in cumulative length of writing, but I want to offer latitude as well as limits. Ideally, each subject and each approach seeks its own best depth and length, and as always, quality outshines quantity.

---Format: **DOUBLE-SPACED 12PT FONT 1" MARGINS NUMBERED PAGES WORD COUNT**
Proofread and edit all work before turning in. Talk to me if you need help with grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc. Vital as these are, they are not the emphasis of this course, and I trust you have a good working knowledge of them already. (*If needed, I may ask you to attend sessions and/or do extra work on composition basics outside of regular class time.*)

Other Required Work:

AA—Write a short environmental **Action Assignment** for a real-world audience, revise to print standards, and send out. Options include letters to the editor or op-eds in newspapers/magazines; letters to government or industry officials; or comments on plans, sales, or actions to an agency or organization. Length will be as required by venue but **seldom longer than 300 words**. Bring 3 draft copies to class **W 9/20**, and then bring an edited revision ready to mail **Mon 9/25**.

WW--Bring **Weekly Writing-in-Progress** of **250-300 words maximum (1 double-spaced page)** to share with classmates **each Wed 9/13/ to 11/29**. These may arise from many sources: in-class writings, exercises in *TIS* or other craft books, your ongoing or preliminary work for required course essays, or anything else in your writing process and practice.

RR—Write a **Reading Response (750 words min.)** to a relevant, recent (2016-17) essay that you select from a magazine, journal, or newspaper (max. length 5000 wds, please). This is an opportunity to articulate your growing ability to read as a writer: to analyze, understand, critique, and appreciate the craft. Focus on technique &/or form (approach, style, voice, conventions, mood, tone, etc.). Some possibilities, among many, are the relationship between features of the essay's form & your own work; between the essay's form & content; between the essay's form and its effect on the reader. Present your response to class **12/4-12/11**. Written response is due same day.

FUN--Attend your choice of **3 outside live readings** from MT Book Fest (9-27--10-1) and other relevant public readings announced in class. (If you hear of any, please let class know!) Write a **1-page response** to each & turn in within a week.

Ongoing Course Practice: Read classmates' work, make notes or questions, and write a short, **signed** response for the writer—before class. (Our focus here is not sentence-level problems: please don't line-edit others' work.) Read and prep for class discussion by writing response notes & questions on assigned readings in *TIS* or on MOODLE.

Grading: I don't assign letter grades on creative work; rather, I respond comprehensively, in class & in writing. I base course grades on my assessment of the quality of your essay writing, revision, effort; on your contributions to class; your other assigned writing; and any extra credit work. Ask any time after September if you'd like a tentative course grade.

Mansfield Library Env. Studies Library Guide at http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/environmental_studies

ENST 573 Fall 2017 Schedule

Subject to ongoing changes as announced daily in class.

MD = Moodle Rdgs TIS = *Tell It Slant* NN = *Natural History of Now* WS = workshop discussion
 RRP = reading response presentation AA = action assignment ICW = in-class writing WW = weekly writing

WK	DAY	ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS (work to discuss that day)	DUE DATE
1	W 9/6	Intros, syllabus, schedule, ICW	
2	M 9/11 W 9/13	TIS Intro & Ch 1; MD Hilbert/Universe, Joy Williams/Shrimp, Jensen/Headlights; ICW TIS Ch 3, 6, 7; MD Holleman/PBears, Doerr/Stones, Raboin; WW	AA: Topic & Audience
3	M 9/18 W 9/20	TIS Ch 8; MD Cokinos/Consolation, Kingsolver/Tucson, Jensen/FSShowers; ICW MD Calvert/Ecocide; AA work in 3's; WW	AA: 3 Draft Copies
4	M 9/25 W 9/27	TIS Ch 9; MD Ray/Transformers, Petersen/Game, Doyle/II; ICW TIS Ch 10; MD Koshere/Yellowstone, Steingraber/Sparrow, Duncan/SW; WW	AA ready to mail
5	M 10/2 W 10/4	TIS Ch 13; Hogan/Beneath, Trout/Evil, Kleiner/Blossoms; ICW TIS Ch 15; MD Baker/Syria, Braverman/PNW, Moyer/OP; WW	ESSAY #1 DRAFT Drafts back for correct & copy
6	M 10/9 W 10/11	WS#1; ICW; TIS Ch 12 WS#1; WW	
7	M 10/16 W 10/18	WS#1; ICW; MD Lopez/Intro WS#1; WW	
8	M 10/23 W 10/25	WS#1; ICW; MD Creative Research WS#1; WW	
9	M 10/30 W 11/1	WS #1; ICW; MD Dillard's Cat TIS Ch 11 & 14; WW	ESSAY #2 DRAFT Essay drafts back for corrections and copies
10	M 11/6 W 11/8	WS #2; ICW; TIS Ch 16 WS#2; WW	
11	M 11/13 W 11/15	WS#2; ICW; RDGS TBA WS#2; WW	
12	M 11/20 W 11/22	WS #2; ICW THANKSGIVING—NO CLASS	RR: title of essay & of source publication
13	M 11/27 W 11/29	WS#2; RDGS TBA WS#2; WW	RR: 7 copies for readers
14	M 12/4 W 12/6	RRP's RRP's	(RRP) Rdg Response Presentations
15	M 12/11	RRP's	
Finals	M-W 12/11--12/13 M 12/18	Individual Course Conferences as requested &/or arranged Last day to turn in revision (with copy of earlier version)	REVISION

Download Autumn 2017 Registrar's Important Dates/Deadlines at <http://www.umt.edu/registrar/calendar.php>
 Read Disability Services for Students Statements at http://www.umt.edu/dss/Faculty/Syllabus_Statements.php