

ENST 573 ENVIRONMENTAL WRITING
Fall 2018 M/W 11:00-12:20 NAS 202 Phil Condon

Office Hrs JRH 107A: M & W 2-3pm / T & TH 12-1pm & by appt.

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406-243.2904

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 9/24** and 2nd due **by FRI 10/26**. 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. By end of course, you choose one of your essays for significant revision (if in doubt on which or how, let's talk). This revision is due during Finals Week.

---Length: One essay at **1500-3000 words** (~5-10 pages) & one at **3000-5000 words** (~10-18 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-SPACE 12PT FONT 1" MARGINS NUMBER 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-ed in a newspaper or magazine; letters to government or industry officials; 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 9/12**, and then bring an edited revision **ready to mail Mon 9/17**.

WW--Bring **Weekly Writing-in-Progress** of **250-300 words (1 double-spaced page max.)** to share with classmates **each Wed 9/5--11/7**. 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.

YSA—By **Mon 10/22** email me a copy of a nature/enviro essay you select for the class to read and discuss (**max. length 3000 words**). You'll lead discussion of the essay on scheduled day and write a brief response (**300-500 words**) from a writer's perspective (**due same day**). This is an opportunity to share writing you like with class, and to articulate your growing ability to read as a writer: to identify, understand, critique, and appreciate craft, form, technique, style.

FUN--Attend your choice of **3 relevant live readings** from MT Book Fest (9/27-29) and other 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 of event.

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 basic mechanics: please don't line-edit others' work.) Read and prep for class discussion the assigned readings in *TIS* or *MOODLE* and the *YSA* readings selected by your classmates.

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, and effort; on your contributions to class; 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 [EVST Library Guides](#)

ENST 573 Fall 2017 Schedule

Subject to ongoing changes as announced daily in class.

MD = Moodle Rdgs TIS = *Tell It Slant* PSM = Pocket Style Manual WS = Workshop Discussion YSA = You Select & Assign
 AA = Action Assignment ICW = In-Class Writing WW = Weekly Writing

WK	DAY	ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS (work to discuss that day)	DUE DATE
1	M 8/27	Intros, syllabus & schedule, ICW	
	W 8/29	TIS Intro & Ch 1; MD Hilbert/Universe, Joy Williams/Shrimp, Jensen/Headlights; ICW	
2	M 9/3	LABOR DAY: NO CLASS	
	W 9/5	TIS Ch 3, 6, 7; MD Holleman/Bears, Doerr/Stones, Raboin/Baby; WW	AA: Topic & Audience
3	M 9/10	TIS Ch 8; MD Cokinos/Consolation, Kingsolver/Tucson, Jensen/FSShowers; ICW	
	W 9/12	MD Calvert/Ecocide; AA work in 3's; WW	AA: 3 Draft Copies
4	M 9/17	TIS Ch 9; MD Ray/Transformers, Petersen/Game, Doyle/II; ICW	AA ready to mail
	W 9/19	TIS Ch 10; MD Koshere/Yellowstone, Steingraber/Sparrow, Duncan/SW; WW	
5	M 9/24	TIS Ch 13; Hogan/Beneath, Trout/Evil, Kleiner/Blossoms; ICW	ESSAY #1 DRAFT
	W 9/26	TIS Ch 15; MD Baker/Syria, Braverman/PNW, Moyer/OP; WW Drafts back for correct & copy	
6	M 10/1	WS#1; ICW; TIS Ch 12	
	W 10/3	WS#1; WW	
7	M 10/8	WS#1; ICW; MD Lopez/Intro	
	W 10/10	WS#1; WW	
8	M 10/15	WS#1; ICW; MD Creative Research	
	W 10/17	WS#1; WW	
9	M 10/22	WS#1; ICW	YSA emailed to me by today
	W 10/24	MD Dillard's Cat; TIS Ch 11 & 14; ICW	ESSAY #2 DRAFT (today or by Fri 10/26)
10	M 10/29	RDG YSA (4) Essay drafts back for correct & copy	
	W 10/31	WS#2; WW	
11	M 11/5	WS #2; RDG YSA (2)	
	W 11/7	WS#2; WW	
12	M 11/12	VETERANS DAY: NO CLASS	
	W 11/14	WS#2; RDG YSA (2)	
13	M 11/19	WS #2; RDGS YSA (2)	
	W 11/21	THANKSGIVING TRAVEL?—NO CLASS	
14	M 11/26	WS#2; RDG YSA (2)	
	W 11/28	WS#2; RDG YSA (2)	
15	M 12/3	TBD	
	W 12/5	TBD	

Finals M-F 12/10-14 **REVISION of Either E#1 Or E#2 Due on Date/Day TBD (along with copy of 1st version)**

Fall 18 Registrar's Dates: [Official Dates and Deadlines](#)

Disability Services for Students Statements: [Syllabus Statements](#)