

ENST 573 ENVIRONMENTAL WRITING
Fall 2020 M/W 11:00-12:20 Phil Condon

Zoom Link: [Class Zoom Link](#)

Office Hrs M 1-2pm [Zoom Link - Monday Office Hours](#)

TH 11am-noon <https://umontana.zoom.us/j/92734330289?pwd=V0ZGOEpnSHZVQnplZUZBQs4MG9pdz09>

Email me at phil.condon@mso.umt.edu Rankin Office Phone at 243.2904

Required Texts: Tell It Slant, Miller/Paola, 3rd Ed. 2019 Moodle Readings: ENST 573 Fall 2020

Recommended/Optional: Pocket Style Manual (PSM), Hacker (any edition)

Field Notes from MT Natural History Center at [Montana Naturalist Shop](#)

Technology Needs:

Access to computer, software, internet service (& quiet location) that allow for Zoom class attendance

Access to WORD software (with Track Changes) for creating documents to be sent & shared

Access to printer for printing assigned readings to have for reference during Zoom class discussions

Daily access to umontana email accounts for class and instructor exchanges.

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 worn world.

Major Required Writing: Two original essays, 1st due MON 9/21 and 2nd due MON 10/19. I make corrections and comments in WORD Track Changes; you consult PSM as needed, correct any problems (and consult me as needed). Then send me a corrected copy. I'll send out 2 student essays to everyone for each workshop discussion class (WS). Also, by the end of the course, you choose 1 of your 2 essays for a significant revision (if in doubt on which or how, let's talk). This revision, along with a copy of the earlier version, is due to me during Finals Week.

--- Length: One essay at 1500-3000 words (~5-10 pages) & one at 3000-5000 words (~10-20 pages). These ranges allow for quite a potential variation among students in cumulative length of writing, but both latitude and limits are important. Ideally, each subject and each approach seeks its own best depth and length, so quantity itself is not a primary focus.

--- Format: DOUBLE-SPACE 12PT FONT 1" MARGINS NUMBERED PAGES
WORD COUNT STANDARD PARAGRAPHING = NO EXTRA LINE SPACE BETWEEN
PGHS, ONLY 5-10 SPACE INDENT

Proofread, edit, and read aloud all work before turning in. Talk to me if you need help with grammar, punctuation, usage, spelling, etc. Vital as these elements 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 work on composition basics outside of regular class time.)

Other Required Work: Weekly Writing-in-Progress (WW--1 double-spaced page maximum) every Wed 8/26--11/4. Email to Phil no later than 8am Wed's and he will email/distribute to rotating pairs prior to Zoom class on these days. WW's are in progress—not intended as complete/finished—and may arise from in-class writings, exercises in TIS or other craft books, ongoing or preliminary work for required course essays, or anything else in your writing process and practice.

Field Note: Write a Field Note, as broadcast on KUFM, MT Public Radio, weekly for 20+ years. Field Notes introduce, intrigue, and educate listeners on a natural lifeform, feature, or element that found in or otherwise relevant to Western Montana. Field Notes are short (400-600 words), and examples abound at [Montana Public Radio - Field Notes](#)

Ongoing Course Practice: For workshops, read classmates' work, make notes or questions keyed to particular pages and paragraphs, and write a short, signed response for the writer—before class. Use this for reference during Zoom discussions and then send it to writer—after class. For other assigned readings, read and prep for class discussion.

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; any extra credit work, in that order, roughly. Ask any time if you'd like a tentative course grade.

MD = Moodle Rdgs TIS = Tell It Slant WS = Workshop Discussion WW = Weekly Writing
 FN = Field Notes ICW = In-Class Writing

WK	DAY	ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS (work to discuss that day)	DUE DATES
1	W 8/19	Intros, syllabus & schedule, ICW	
2	M 8/24 ICW	Preface & Appendix I; MD: Hilbert/Universe, Joy Williams/Shrimp, Jensen/Headlights;	
	W 8/26	TIS Ch 1 & 3; MD: Petersen/Game, Doerr/Stones, Doyle/Birds; WW	
3	M 8/31 W 9/2	TIS Ch 4 & 7; MD: Cokinos/Consolation, Kingsolver/Tucson; ICW TIS Ch 8; MD: MacKinnon/Tragedy, Jensen/FSShowers; WW	
4	M 9/7 W 9/9	LABOR DAY / NO CLASS TIS Ch 9; MD: Holleman/Bears, Steingraber/Sparrow, Trout/Evil, Duncan/Withdrawal; WW	
5	M 9/14 W 9/16	TIS Ch 11 & Parns essay; MD: Braverman/PMNW, Baker/Syria; WW TIS Ch 12; Lopez/Apolonia; Berry/Entrance; Kleiner/Blossoms; WW	
6	M 9/21	MD: Ray/Against E Day, Moyer/OP, Doyle/II; ICW	ESSAY #1 DRAFT
	W 9/23	TIS Ch 10 & Hakala essay; Drafts back for corrections / 2 sent to all for WS#1-1; WW	
7	M 9/28 W 9/30	WS#1-1; MD Lopez/Intro; ICW WS#1-2; WW	
8	M 10/5 W 10/7	WS#1-3; MD Creative Research; ICW WS#1-4; WW	
9	M 10/12 W 10/14	WS#1-5; MD Dillard's Cat; ICW; FN's Listening TBA at Montana Public Radio Program - Field Notes	
10	M 10/19 W 10/21	FN's Listeners' Choice TBA TIS Ch 13 & Hurd essay; Drafts back for corrections / 2 sent to all for WS#2-1; ICW	ESSAY #2 DRAFT
11	M 10/26 W 10/28	WS#2-1; ICW WS #2-2; WW	
12	M 11/2 W 11/4	WS#2-3; ICW WS # 2-4; WW	
13	M 11/9 W 11/11	WS #2-5; ICW VETERANS DAY: NO CLASS	
14	M 11/16 W 11/18	Rdgs TBA Closings / Farewells	FIELD NOTE

Finals

TH 11/19—W 11/25 Send significant REVISION of Either E#1 Or E#2 (along with copy of 1st version)

Fall 20 Registrar's Dates: Track all dates and deadlines at [Registrar Calendar](#)

Disability Services: I offer any option at http://www.umt.edu/dss/faculty-staff/Syllabus_Statements.php

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