

**Professor Stephanie LeMenager**

**T 2-4:50**

**Petersen 107**

### **ENG 607 Seminar. Energy Humanities.**

The course explores the dynamic interdisciplinary field of the Cultures of Energy or Energy Humanities, with an emphasis upon the methods of literary and cultural studies. This is a reading course, meaning that there are extensive expectations for weekly reading and/or film viewing.

**Regular Participation (20%).** Regular participation includes consistent attendance and substantive commentary on course materials. Every week students who wish to be considered for an "A" grade for participation should come in with a list of *three* conceptual questions and *two* passages or scenes for discussion, from readings or media texts.

**Seminar Leadership (30%).** Students (individually or in teams of two) will choose one week in which to lead class discussion for approximately 45 minutes. Leadership will include explaining the central ideas or themes of a text, its format and stylistic particularities, the ways in which it indicates its intended public (e.g. what kind of audience it hopes to summon), and how it contributes to key questions within the developing field of the energy humanities. It is always desirable to consider links among course texts, to develop conceptual constellations and to posit genealogies.

**Seminar Paper First Draft (20%).** At some point before Week 10 of the seminar, students will turn in to the professor and to one student reader/reviewer a draft seminar paper of a minimum of five pages plus an outline and bibliography. The seminar paper can be on a topic of your choice, so long as it draws on course materials and themes. It should have a bibliography of approximately ten items, five of which should be readings not assigned in seminar. Comments on the draft will be due back to the author within twenty-four hours by the student reviewer, and within forty-eight hours by the professor. It is recommended that not all students turn in their drafts on Week Nine, for the sake of staggering the class workload and gaining maximal attention for their work. Grades for the drafts will be determined based on the promise of the proposed final paper, the quality of the outline and bibliography, and the care given to the review of your student partner. All students make two copies of editorial comments and give one set to their assigned author and one to the professor.

### **Conference-Length Final Seminar Paper of 10-12 pages (40%).**

This paper is a realization of the draft submitted prior to Week Ten. Each paper should be accompanied by a finished bibliography, in MLA format. Each paper should be designated for submission to a conference of your choice, which you will make note of under your name on the first page of the paper. I will follow up with each of you about whether you have submitted and presented the paper.

**Due December 7<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Schedule**

### **Tues. Sept 26**

*Readings:*

Stephanie LeMenager and Imre Szeman, "When Energy Is the Focus" (2016)

Jennifer Wenzel, "Introduction to Fueling Culture" (2017)

Timothy Mitchell, "Carbon Democracy" (2009)

Amitav Ghosh, "Petrofiction" (1992)

### **Tues. Oct. 3**

*Readings:*

Barbara Freese, *Coal: A Human History* (2003)

Mark Nowak, *Coal Mountain Elementary* (2009)

Kathryn Yusoff, "Geologic Life: Prehistory, Climate, Futures" (2013)

**Watch in class:** *Goodbye Gauley Mountain: An Ecosexual Love Story* (2013; 70 minutes)

### **Tues. Oct. 10**

**Watch before class:** *Giant* (dir. George Stevens, 1956) and *The Wages of Fear/Le Salaire de la Peur* (dir. Henri-Georges Cluzot, 1953)

*Readings:*

Frederick Buell, "A Short History of Oil Cultures: Or, the Marriage of Catastrophe and Exuberance" (2011)

Dennis Lehane, "No Exit" (n.d.)

### **Tues. Oct. 17**

*Readings:*

Patricia Smith, *Blood Dazzler* (2009)

Michael Watts, "Michael Watts, "A Tale of Two Gulfs: Life, Death, and Dispossession along Two Oil Frontiers" (2012)

Stephanie LeMenager, "The B.P. Blowout and the Arts of Grief" (2011)

Richard Misrach and Kate Orff, *Petrochemical America* (2014)

### **Tues. Oct. 24**

*Readings:*

Ken Saro-Wiwa, "Night Ride" (date uncertain)

Begin discussion: Nnedi Okorafor, *Lagoon* (2016)

**Watch in class:** "Karipko Pipeline" (dir. Zina Saro-Wiwa, 2015)

### **Tues. Oct. 31 (Halloween)**

**Pre-class prep:** Come with your own definition of Afro-Futurism

**Readings:**

Nnedi Okorafor, *Lagoon* (2016)  
Octavia Butler, *Parable of the Sower* (2000)  
**Listening before and in class:** "The Deep" by clppng.

**Tues. Nov. 7**

**Readings:**

Arlie Russell Hochschild, *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* (2016)  
Linda Martin Alcoff, "Introduction: The Unbearable Whiteness of Being," in *The Future of Whiteness* (2015)

**Tues. Nov. 14**

**Listening before class:** *Cultures of Energy Podcast #55. Standing Rock. With Jakiran Dhillon and Nick Estes. Hosted by Dominic Boyer and Cymene Howe.*

**Readings:**

Winona LaDuke. "They Clearly Thought They'd Bought a Slam-Dunk Pipeline: An Interview with Winona LaDuke." *In These Times*. Sept. 23, 2016.  
Dhillon, Jakiran and Estes, Nick. "Introduction: Standing Rock, #NoDAPL, and Mni Wiconi." Hot Spots, *Cultural Anthropology* website, December 22, 2016.  
Naomi Klein, "Blockadia," from *This Changes Everything*

**Guest participant via Skype: Jeffrey Insko, English professor and pipeline activist**

**Tues. Nov. 21**

**Readings:**

Jennifer Haigh, *Heat and Light* (2016)  
**Listening before class:** Interview with Jennifer Haigh on Fiction and Fracking, "Who Makes Cents? A History of Capitalism Podcast."

**Tues. Nov. 28**

**Readings:**

John Urry, *Societies Beyond Oil: Oil Dregs and Social Futures* (2013)

**Guest participant via Skype: Anindita Banerjee**