

General Studies Request Form

Permanent numbered courses must be submitted to the workflow in [Kuali CM](#) before a General Studies request is submitted here. The General Studies Council will not review requests ahead of the new course being reviewed by the Senate.

More detailed information about requesting General Studies designations is found [here](#).

Proposal Contact Information

Submitter Name	Submitter Email	Submitter Phone Number
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College/School	Department/School
The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLA)	Department of English (CENGLISH)

Submission Information

Select the type of submission:

New Request (This course or topic does not currently hold this designation)

Requested Effective Date

Spring 2023

ASU Request

Is this request for a permanent course or a topic?

Permanent Course

Subject	Course Number	Units/Credit Hours
FMS	385	3

Course Information

Course Title

Ecomedia

Course Description

Spanning from environmental animation to earth imaging to indigenous media, considers how films, television and other media depict environmental issues, landscapes and technologies.

Is this a crosslisted course?

No

Is this course offered by another academic unit?

No

Requested Designation

HU - Humanities, Arts and Design

HU: Humanities, Arts and Design

Rationale and Objectives

The humanities disciplines are concerned with questions of human existence and meaning, the nature of thinking and knowing, with moral and aesthetic experience. The humanities develop values of all kinds by making the human mind more supple, critical, and expansive. They are concerned with the study of the textual and artistic traditions of diverse cultures, including traditions in literature, philosophy, religion, ethics, history, and aesthetics. In sum, these disciplines explore the range of human thought and its application to the past and present human environment. They deepen awareness of the diversity of the human heritage and its traditions and histories, and they may also promote the application of this knowledge to contemporary societies.

The study of the arts and design, like the humanities, deepens the student's awareness of the diversity of human societies and cultures. The arts have as their primary purpose the creation and study of objects, installations, performances, and other means of expressing or conveying aesthetic concepts and ideas. Design study concerns itself with material objects, images and spaces, their historical development, and their significance in society and culture. Disciplines in the arts and design employ modes of thought and communication that are often nonverbal, which means that courses in these areas tend to focus on objects, images, and structures and/or on the practical techniques and historical development of artistic and design traditions. The past and present accomplishments of artists and designers help form the student's ability to perceive aesthetic qualities of artwork and design.

The Humanities, Arts and Design are an important part of the General Studies program, for they provide an opportunity for students to study intellectual and imaginative traditions and to observe and/or learn the production of artwork and design. The knowledge acquired in courses fulfilling the Humanities, Arts and Design requirement may encourage students to investigate their own personal philosophies or beliefs and to understand better their own social experience. In sum, the Humanities, Arts and Design core area enables students to broaden and deepen their consideration of the variety of human experience.

[Revised March 2021]

Note: The following types of courses are **excluded** from the "HU" designation, even though they might give some consideration to the humanities, arts and design:

1. Courses devoted primarily to developing skill in the use of a language.
2. Courses devoted primarily to the acquisition of quantitative or experimental methods.
3. Courses devoted primarily to teaching skills.

"HU" courses must meet *either* 1, 2, or 3 *and* at least one of the criteria under 4 in such a way as to make the satisfaction of these criteria **a central and substantial portion** of the course content.

Select which "HU" criteria this course meets.

1. Emphasizes the study of values; the development of philosophies, religions, ethics or belief systems; and/or aesthetic experience.
2. Concerns the interpretation, critical analysis, or creation of written, aural, or visual texts; and/or the critical analysis (not summary or memorization) of historical development of textual traditions.

Emphasizes the study of values; the development of philosophies, religions, ethics or belief systems; and/or aesthetic experience.

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

Course syllabus

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

The course takes students through explorations of environmental ideology, philosophy, and ethics, especially through the introduction of a land ethic and feminist ethics of care. It also encourages critical thinking around the histories of Western, hegemonic environmental beliefs and values, including ones that see environments for their utilitarian value.

Please provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

Week 3 introduces environmental ideology and belief systems via Julia Corbett's work and gives students a broad range of ideologies to examine. Arguably every subsequent week of class addresses environmental values and the ways in which media either challenge or reproduce those values. This includes discussions of how earth images have reproduced specific environmental ideologies (the modern environmentalist movement, imperialist beliefs), how animation can challenge or introduce notions of the environment as interactive and mutable, how existing treatments of extreme weather and climate change inscribe ideas of environmental catastrophe as "other", indigenous environmental ideologies and ethics, and the extractive logics that undergird mediations and discourses around energy and energy transition.

"HU" Criteria 2

Concerns the interpretation, **critical analysis**, or creation of written, aural, or visual texts; and/or the **critical analysis (not summary or memorization)** of historical development of textual traditions.

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

Syllabus, Table of Contents and Required Reading List

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

As this is a film and media studies class, written and visual texts are central to the course and to the assignments. Students will write research papers aimed at the critical analysis of environmental issues and texts, and will also engage with group projects that ask them to creatively tell environmental stories.

Please provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

Each week, students are given a reading assignment and usually one film or interactive media text to engage with. They are to respond to these texts in weekly Persuall annotations and in class. In addition, the major assignments of class are aimed at teaching students critical and historiographic analysis. Their research paper encapsulates this most directly. They must also conduct a media object analysis and presentation, and submit a storymap project in which they individually produce an environmental narrative using the Google Earth platform.

"HU" Criteria 4

In addition, an "HU" course must meet one or more of the following requirements. Select all that apply.

a. Concerns the development of human thought, with emphasis on demonstrable critical analysis of philosophical and/or religious systems of thought.

b. Concerns aesthetic systems and values, especially in literature, arts, and design.

"HU" Criteria 4A Information

Concerns the development of human thought, with emphasis on **demonstrable critical analysis** of philosophical and/or religious systems of thought.

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

Syllabus

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

Many of the readings that students are assigned are philosophical texts that describe systems of thought around environmental issues. Assignments will also emphasize critical analysis, whether of texts or ideas.

Please provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

Week 3: Environmental Ideology, addresses Western and indigenous knowledge systems and introduces discourses around epistemology, scientific objectivity, genealogy, and cosmology. Week 5: Mediating the Earth also considers Western philosophical traditions, as does Week 4: Environmental Animation, which asks students to compare the ideologies of environmental anime (as exemplified in Hayao Miyazaki's films) and the history of western environmental animation (which includes anti-logging and anti-industrial animations like the Lorax). Questions of philosophy and cosmology also come into play in Week 12: Thinking Through Nonhumans, when students learn to think from ecocentric and nonhuman perspectives about the world.

"HU" Criteria 4B Information

Concerns aesthetic systems and values, especially in literature, arts, and design.

Identify the submitted documentation that provides evidence.

Syllabus

How does this course meet the spirit of this criteria?

This course ties together environmental ideology with aesthetic texts, especially films and digital texts. It directly addresses how design and production need to be considered in environmental critiques.

Please provide detailed evidence of how this course meets this criteria (i.e. where in the syllabus or other course materials).

In class, we will discuss and perform aesthetic analysis of films, interactive documentaries, and media including *The Host* (Bong Joon-Ho, 2006), *The Anthropocene: The Human Epoch* (Baichwal and Burtynsky, 2018), *Honeyland* (Tamara Kotevska and Ljubomir Stefanov, 2019), *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (Zeitlin, 2012), *Princess Mononoke* (Miyazaki, 1997), and more. We will think about how different aesthetic traditions, from documentary, to news media, to game animation, to science fiction, differently mediate environments and environmental ideologies. In weeks 8 and 13, we will additionally discuss critical perspectives on green technological design.

Attach a sample syllabus for this course or topic, including the list of any required readings.

[FMS 385 Syllabus.pdf](#)

Attach the table of contents from any required textbook(s).

[FMS 385 Course Materials & Table of Contents.pdf](#)

Attach any other materials that would be relevant or helpful in the review of this request.

No Response