

SPRING 2019 GOOGLE CLASS DESCRIPTIONS

COMM 289 Ecomedia

Conflicts over water resources, petroculture, food safety, pollution, and climate change are some of the biggest challenges humans face, yet many feel so helpless in the face of these daunting problems, they choose to ignore them rather than to act or demand policy change. Through examination of readings, videos, advertisements, video games, and social media, students will explore the repercussions of environmental degradation from an intersectional perspective. We will look at environmental writings and activist movements--in particular those created by women--focusing on new media's role in these movements, discussing the strategies used to communicate environmental struggles, and interrogating why we resist taking environmental action.

SOC 388 Visual Sociology

This course will introduce students to the art of crafting and communicating a religious speech in a liturgical setting. In addition to sermons, homilies, and public meditations delivered throughout the history of the Christian Church, students will interact with contemporary religious speeches to understand a broad interpretation of styles, techniques, and themes in preaching. Students will be asked to observe the rhetorical delivery of theological ideas in a variety of contexts through the exposure to guest speakers, online sermons and peer preachers.

WGS 380 Sex and Gender: Nature and Nurture

From the earliest possible moments, sometimes even before birth, we identify individuals as females and males. Gender roles and identities are reinforced from birth with the clothes we dress infants in and the toys we give them. But what makes us males and females? Sex and gender are concepts that have been studied from a variety of perspectives. Are they the same things? What leads to differences in sex and gender? While some people have argued that biological factors are the primary factors that determine if an individual is female or male, others have argued that these terms are socially constructed and that social and cultural factors are the primary determinants of sex and gender. In this course, we will examine how biological factors interact with cultural and social factors to influence the expression of sex and gender and how our understanding has changed over time. This will require us to bring together feminist perspectives along with biology, psychology, anthropology, and history.