

9-2014

## ENST 573.01: Environmental Writing

Phil Condon

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**ENST 573 Environmental Writing Fall 2014**  
M/W 11:10-12:30 NAS 202

**Instructor Information:**

- Phil Condon
- Office Hrs JRH 107A: m & w 2-3pm & t & th 12-1pm & by appt.
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- 243.2904

**Texts:**

- *Tell It Slant*, Miller/Paola, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. 2012.
- *Pocket Style Manual (PSM)*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed., Hacker
- *Natural History of Now*, 2012
- Moodle Readings Folder ENST 573.01--Condon

**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 create a community based in honesty, courtesy, commitment to craft, courtesy, and shared enthusiasms--for good writing & a erre wild and thoughtful world. I have faith you will write work that surprises & challenges you, your classmates, & me—work to engage, enliven, educate, and wake up a worried world.

**Major Required Writing:**

2 original essays, 1<sup>st</sup> due **MON 9/22**, 2<sup>nd</sup> due **MON 10/20**. I make line-edit notes keyed to *PSM*; you correct problems (consult with me as needed) and give me class copies. Each Wed thereafter, I'll bring 4 student essays to everyone for reading and response: 2 for each of the next week's classes. After workshop, you choose 1 essay for significant revision (if in doubt on which one, let's talk). All revisions are due by **F 12/5**, but can certainly be done earlier. You may revise both, for extra credit only, but if so, please turn in at least one of the revisions by **M 11/24**.

- **Length:** One essay at **1500-3000 words** (5-10 pgs) & one at **3000-5000 words** (10-20 pgs). I know these ranges allow quite a potential variation among students in cumulative length of writing, but I want to offer latitude as well as parameters. Ideally, each subject and approach seeks its own best depth & length, and as always, quality trumps quantity.
- **Format:** **DOUBLE-SPACED 12PT FONT 1" MARGINS NUMBERED 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 an environmental **Action Assignment** for a real-world audience, revise to print standards and send out. Options include letters to the editor or op-eds in newspapers/magazines, letters to elected 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**. Three draft copies due in class for group workshop on **Wed 9/10**, with an edited revision ready to mail by **Mon 9/15**.
- **WW**--Bring **Weekly Writing-in-progress** of **250-300 words (1 double-spaced page) maximum** to share with classmates **each Wed 9/3 to 11/20**. 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.
- **RR**--Write a **Reading Response (750 words min.)** to a relevant, recent (2013--) essay that you select from a magazine, journal, or newspaper. This is an opportunity to articulate your growing ability *to read as a writer*: to analyze, identify, and critique the craft. Focus your response on technique or form (approach, style, voice, conventions, mood, tone, etc.). *Examples*: relationship between features of the essay's form & your own work; or between the essay's form & content; or between the essay's form and its effect on the reader. Present to class **11/24-12/3**. Written response is due same day.

- **FUN**--Attend your choice of **3 outside live readings** from MT Book Fest (Oct 9-11) 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.

### Ongoing Course Practice:

Read classmates' work, make notes or questions, and write a short, **signed** response for the writer—before class. Unless you're a professional-quality editor, please don't line-edit others' work. Read and prep for class discussion by writing response notes & questions on assigned readings in TIS, NHON, or MOODLE readings.

### 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, & effort; & on your contributions to class, your other assigned writing & any extra credit work. Ask any time after September if you'd like a tentative course grade.

[Mansfield Library Env Studies Library Guide at:  
http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/environmental\\_studies](http://libguides.lib.umt.edu/environmental_studies)

### ENST 573 Fall 2014 Schedule

Subject to ongoing changes as announced daily in class.

**MD = Moodle Rdgs**    **TIS = Tell It Slant**    **NN = Natural History of Now**    **WS = workshop discussion**  
**RRP = reading response presentation**    **AA = action assignment**    **ICW = in-class writing**    **WW = weekly writing**

| Dates                     | Assignments   | Due                                     |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| M 8/25<br>W 8/27          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intros, syllabus, schedule, ICW</li> <li>• TIS Intro &amp; Ch 1; MD Hilbert, Joy Williams, Jensen/Headlights; ICW</li> </ul>                                 |   |
| <b>M 9/1</b><br>W 9/3     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NO CLASS: LABOR DAY</b></li> <li>• TIS Ch 3, 6, 7; MD Holleman, Doerr; NN Raboin; WW</li> </ul>   | <b>AA: Topic &amp; Audience</b>         |
| M 9/8<br>W 9/10           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TIS Ch 8; MD Cokinos; Kingsolver; Jensen/FSShowers; ICW</li> <li>• MD: SA Russell x 2 for class visitor today: Writer Sharman Apt Russell from NM</li> </ul> |   |
| M 9/15<br>W 9/17          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TIS Ch 9; AA in 3's; MD Ray, Petersen; ICW</li> <li>• TIS Ch 10; MD Modlin, Steingraber, Duncan/SW; WW</li> </ul>  | <b>AA: 3 Draft Copies<br/>AA due</b>    |
| <b>M 9/22</b><br>W 9/24   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TIS Ch 13; NN Koshere, Lanzoni; ICW</li> <li>• TIS Ch 15; NN Engelfried; MD Baker; WW; Drafts back for correction &amp; copies</li> </ul>                    | <b>ESSAY #1 DRAFT</b>                   |
| M 9/29<br>W 10/1          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WS#1; ICW; TIS Ch 12</li> <li>• WS#1; WW</li> </ul>  |   |
| M 10/6<br>W 10/8          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WS#1; ICW; MD Lopez/Intro</li> <li>• WS#1; WW</li> </ul>   |   |
| M 10/13<br>W 10/15        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WS#1; ICW; MD Creative Research</li> <li>• WS#1; WW</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b>M 10/20</b><br>W 10/22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WS #1; ICW; MD Dillard's Cat</li> <li>• TIS Ch 11 &amp; 14; WW; Drafts back for corrections and copies</li> </ul>  | <b>ESSAY #2 DRAFT</b>                   |
| M 10/27<br>W 10/29        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WS #2; ICW; TIS Ch 16</li> <li>• WS#2; WW</li> </ul>   |   |
| M 11/3<br>W 11/5          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WS#2; ICW; Rdgs TBA</li> <li>• WS #2; WW</li> </ul>  |   |
| M 11/10<br>W 11/12        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WS#2; ICW</li> <li>• WS#2; WW</li> </ul>   | <b>RRP Choice: 7 copies for readers</b> |
| M 11/17                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WS#2; ICW; Rdgs TBA</li> </ul>   |   |

| Dates                                    | Assignments  | Due  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>W 11/19</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRP's</li> </ul>  | <b>(RRP) Rdg</b><br><b>Response/Presents begin</b> |
| M 11/24<br><b>W 11/26</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRP's</li> </ul>  | <b>NO CLASS:</b><br><b>THANKSGIVING</b>            |
| M 12/1<br>W 12/3                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRP; Class Evals</li> <li>• RRP; Closing</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>Final</b><br><b>F 12/5</b><br>12/8-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last day to turn in revision</li> <li>• Individual Course Conferences as requested &amp;/or arranged</li> </ul> | <b>REVISION</b>                                    |

**Registrar Dates:**

**Events:** [http://events.umt.edu/?calendar\\_id=27&upcoming=upcoming&format=rss&limit=100](http://events.umt.edu/?calendar_id=27&upcoming=upcoming&format=rss&limit=100)

**Disability Services for Students:** [http://life.umt.edu/dss/Faculty/Syllabus\\_Statements.php](http://life.umt.edu/dss/Faculty/Syllabus_Statements.php)