

EN 308: Climate Fiction: From Apocalypse to Utopia
Fall 2023
MWF, 8:30-9:20 a.m.
Henry Hall, room 107

Prof. Wyble
Office: Henry Hall, room 206-B
Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-4:00 p.m., Wednesdays 2:30-4:00 p.m., Fridays 1:30-4:00 p.m.
(and at other times by appt.)
Office Phone: (808) 739-8534
Email: justin.wyble@chaminade.edu

Course Description

We are now living on a planet suffering from the initial effects of climate change. Let us explore how literature may serve as our guide as we begin to imagine how we might live with, and possibly mitigate, these effects in the future. This course will engage directly with the Marianist characteristics of educating for adaptation and change, and educating for service, justice, and peace.

We will read a diverse set of stories from across a wide range of genres, including realism, science fiction, and fantasy. While the vast majority of futures depicted in climate fiction are dystopian, if not outright post-apocalyptic, one of our primary goals in this course will be to move from this obsession with dystopia to an understanding of the importance of imagining utopia, even when facing the bleakest of possible futures.

Required Texts

*No ebook editions will be allowed in this class. You are required to purchase, rent, or borrow the **paper editions** of the following four books:

- Emmi Itäranta, *Memory of Water* (978-0062326157)
- Kim Stanley Robinson, *The Ministry for the Future* (978-0316300148)
- N. K. Jemisin, *The Fifth Season* (978-0316229296)
- Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, et al., eds., *Indigenous Pacific Islander Eco-Literatures* (978-0824891053)

*You are also required to bring a 1” three-ring binder, college-ruled notebook filler paper, and a pen or pencil to each class.

*In addition, you will be required to rent or purchase several films and/or tv shows.

General Education Learning Outcomes

Students will evaluate the ways in which adaptation and change are essential to understanding the past, analyzing the present, and applying critical thinking to meet future challenges and needs. (Educate for Adaptation and Change)

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who complete this program will:

1. Identify, define and apply literary critical approaches to analyze texts.
2. Define, analyze and interpret texts and their cultural and historical contexts.
3. Read, research, and write as a dialogic process of inquiry that includes reflection, collaboration and engagement with others.
4. Formulate and construct interpretive and creative applications of texts in workshops, literary performances, and other collaborative events in local communities.
5. Explain and interpret how literature and writing are vehicles for service, justice and peace.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who complete this course will:

1. Define the elements of fiction and literary terms used to discuss them.
2. Read and analyze literary texts using the elements of fiction.
3. Define literary critical approaches and use them to analyze literary texts.
4. Situate and explain literary texts within their socio-historical contexts.
5. Describe the characteristics of the genres of literature.
6. Combine and apply interpretive skills in order to participate in class discussions of literary texts.
7. Write unified, coherent, well-developed essays about literary texts.
8. Conduct library research on literary texts and related secondary sources, culminating in the successful completion of a research-based literary essay.

Requirements

Attendance and Participation = 20%

Weekly Response Papers = 20%

Essay Project = 20%

Mid-Term Essay Exam = 20%

Final Essay Exam = 20%

*English majors should save graded copies of their essays in all English classes, insofar as a subset of these essays will be required for the Senior Seminar portfolio in English 499.

Attendance and Participation

If you are sick, you should not attend class. Please inform me of your absence due to illness via email, with documentation attached, and I will excuse you from class.

If you are absent for any reason (excused or unexcused), the student is responsible for emailing the professor to request any missed assignments.

Late arrivals and/or early departures will be counted as unexcused tardies, unless approved by the professor (documentation required). Three unexcused tardies will count as one unexcused absence.

Your attendance record will determine your attendance and participation grade (10% of your total grade) as follows:

0-3 unexcused absences = 100 points

4 unexcused absences = 88 points

5 unexcused absences = 85 points

6 unexcused absences = 82 points

7 unexcused absences = 78 points

8 unexcused absences = 75 points

9 unexcused absences = 72 points

10 or more unexcused absences (the equivalent of more than three weeks of class) = 0 points

Your attendance record may also impact other parts of your final grade.

Remember, if you are absent for two consecutive weeks or more, the professor may administratively withdraw you from the class.

Policies

No electronic devices (including laptops, tablets, cell phones, ear buds/headphones, etc.) are allowed in class, unless approved by the professor. Please keep your devices silenced and in your bag.

Late assignments will earn a 10% deduction for each day they are late.

Plagiarized assignments and AI-generated or AI-assisted assignments will earn zero points. In this course, students are not permitted to use generative AI applications such as ChatGPT, Bard, or Bing, in whole or in part, to generate course materials or assignments. Grammar and spell checking tools such as those integrated into MS Word or Google Docs may be used. If you have any questions about whether a particular tool or specific use is permitted, check with the professor.

I expect all students to treat each other and the instructor with respect at all times. This includes listening carefully and speaking thoughtfully to others during our class discussions.

Marianist Characteristics

Chaminade is a Marianist Institution and uses the following characteristics as a guide:

1. Educate for Formation in Faith
2. Integral Quality Education
3. Educate in the Family Spirit
4. Service, Justice, and Peace and the Integrity of Creation
5. Adaptation and Change

Disability Access

If you need individual accommodations to meet course outcomes because of a documented disability, please speak with me to discuss your needs as soon as possible so that we can ensure your full participation in class and fair assessment of your work. Students with special needs who meet criteria for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions must provide written documentation of the need for accommodations from the Counseling Center by the end of week three of the class, in order for instructors to plan accordingly. If a student would like to determine if they meet the criteria for accommodations, they should contact the Kokua Ike Coordinator at (808) 739-8305 for further information (ada@chaminade.edu).

Title IX Compliance

Chaminade University of Honolulu recognizes the inherent dignity of all individuals and promotes respect for all people. Sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse will NOT be tolerated at CUH. If you have been the victim of sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, we encourage you to report this matter promptly. As a faculty member, I am interested in promoting a safe and healthy environment, and should I learn of any sexual misconduct, physical and/or psychological abuse, I must report the matter to the Title IX Coordinator. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you can find the appropriate resources by visiting Campus Ministry, the Dean of Students Office, the Counseling Center, or the Office for Compliance and Personnel Services.

Student Conduct

Any community must have a set of rules and standards of conduct by which it operates. At Chaminade, these standards are outlined so as to reflect both the Catholic, Marianist values of the institution and to honor and respect students as responsible adults. All alleged violations of the community standards are handled through an established student conduct process, outlined in the Student Handbook, and operated within the guidelines set to honor both students' rights and campus values.

Students should conduct themselves in a manner that reflects the ideals of the University. This includes knowing and respecting the intent of rules, regulations, and/or policies presented in the Student Handbook, and realizing that students are subject to the University's jurisdiction from

the time of their admission until their enrollment has been formally terminated. Please refer to the Student Handbook for more details. A copy of the Student Handbook is available on the Chaminade website.

Diversity Statement

Chaminade's Core belief statement states, "Students, both traditional and non-traditional, bring a variety of talents, traditions, cultures and abilities. This diversity brings a special opportunity to the Chaminade community, which can then nurture and guide each student to the fullest realization of potential." Consequently, this course encompasses readings that reflect and examine the diversity of our literary, cultural and environmental heritage. Additionally, the course puts special attention on the problems faced by authors seeking to write from unique personal or cultural perspectives to readers who may not share the same perspectives or cultural background.

Plagiarism Guidelines

Plagiarism is presenting the work of another as your own. The guidelines for plagiarism are in the Academic Catalog. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Complete or partial copying directly from a published or unpublished source without proper acknowledgment to the author. Minor changes in wording or syntax are not sufficient to avoid charges of plagiarism. Proper acknowledgement (citation) of the source is always mandatory.
2. Paraphrasing the work of another without proper acknowledgement.
3. Submitting as one's own original work (however freely given or purchased) the original exam, research paper, manuscript, report, computer file, or other assignment that has been prepared by another individual.

Credit Hour Policy

The unit of semester credit is defined as university-level credit that is awarded for the completion of coursework. One credit hour reflects the amount of work represented in the intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement for those learning outcomes. Each credit hour earned at Chaminade University should result in 45 hours of engagement. This equates to one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester, 10 week term, or equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. Direct instructor engagement and out-of-class work result in total student engagement time of 45 hours for one credit.

The minimum 45 hours of engagement per credit hour can be satisfied in fully online, internship, or other specialized courses through several means, including (a) regular online instruction or interaction with the faculty member and fellow students and (b) academic engagement through extensive reading, research, online discussion, online quizzes or exams; instruction, collaborative group work, internships, laboratory work, practica, studio work, and preparation of papers,

presentations, or other forms of assessment. This policy is in accordance with federal regulations and regional accrediting agencies.

This is a three-credit hour course requiring a minimum of 135 clock hours of student engagement, per the official CUH Credit Hour Policy. Students enrolled in this course are anticipated to spend 33.5 hours in class, 5 hours studying for the midterm essay exam, and 10 hours studying for and taking the final essay exam. The remaining time (86.5 hours) will be devoted to the assigned readings, averaging approximately 5.8 hours each week.

Overview of Course Schedule

*Subject to change.

Week 1:

- Emmi Itäranta, *Memory of Water*

Week 2:

- Emmi Itäranta, *Memory of Water*

Week 3:

- Emmi Itäranta, *Memory of Water*

Week 4:

- Kim Stanley Robinson, *The Ministry for the Future*

Week 5:

- Kim Stanley Robinson, *The Ministry for the Future*

Week 6:

- Kim Stanley Robinson, *The Ministry for the Future*

Week 7:

- Kim Stanley Robinson, *The Ministry for the Future*

Week 8:

- Kim Stanley Robinson, *The Ministry for the Future*

Week 9:

- Mid-Term Essay Exam
- N. K. Jemisin, *The Fifth Season*

Week 10:

- N. K. Jemisin, *The Fifth Season*

Week 11:

- N. K. Jemisin, *The Fifth Season*

Week 12:

- N. K. Jemisin, *The Fifth Season*

Week 13:

- Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, et al., eds., *Indigenous Pacific Islander Eco-Literatures*

Week 14:

- Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, et al., eds., *Indigenous Pacific Islander Eco-Literatures*

Week 15:

- Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, et al., eds., *Indigenous Pacific Islander Eco-Literatures*

Final Exam:

- Wednesday, December 6th, 8:30-10:30 a.m.