

We All Live Downstream: Climate Change, Sustainability, and Global Citizenship

104 Cockefair Hall / Wednesday 3-3:50

Prof. Gayle Levy (levyg@umkc.edu or x. 2820)

Office hours: M 10-11:50; W: 2:15-2:45 (211 Scofield Hall) or by appointment

You can find contracts and other information at <http://cas.umkc.edu/honors/>

The following paperback novel is **required** reading for WS 07 Colloquium:

Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change by Elizabeth Kolbert (Bloomsbury: 2006)

Any articles that will be assigned or suggested will be available on the Honors BlackBoard site.

Jan. 10: Introduction and presentation of candidates for Co-President of Honors Club.

Jan. 17: Framing the question and defining our terms.

Jan. 24: Continue the discussion. (Read *Field Notes*, Preface and Chp. 1)

Jan. 31: Video: selections from *An Inconvenient Truth* (2006) with Al Gore. (Read *FN*: Chp. 2)

Feb. 7: Prof. Jimmy Adegoke, Dept. of Geosciences, "TBA" (*FN*: Chp. 3)

Feb. 14: Book discussion. (*FN*: Chp. 4)

Feb. 21: Stephen VanRhein, Missouri Department of Conservation, "Wilderness Bought and Sold." (*FN*: finish all of Part I)

Feb. 28: Prof. Jim Sheppard, Department of Philosophy, "Rethinking Cities, Urban Nature, and Human Conduct." (*FN*: Chp. 5)

March 7: Marcel Harmon, Human Inquiry, "Culture, Technology, and Sustainability." (*FN*: Chp. 6)

March 14: Dustin Jensen, Dept. of Geosciences, "The wildness at home: Does Climate Control Drive Climate Change?" (*FN*: Chp. 7)

Mark 21: Ingrid Tobar, Dept of Geosciences: "Bogotá Without Indifference: A Local Initiative to Counteract the Paradox of Urban Environmentalism." (*FN*: Chp. 8)

March 28: Spring Break—have fun enjoying the environment outside the classroom!

April 4: Prof. Heike Becker, Dept. of Anthropology, University of the Western Cape, South Africa: "We Can't Care About Every Butterfly." (*FN*: Chp. 9)

April 11: Book and final discussion. (*FN*: finish all of Part II)

April 18: Presentation of senior honors theses.

April 24: BBQ and vote on next year's theme for Colloquium.

Over the course of the semester there will be opportunities for you to take part in service-learning events that are related to the issues we will be discussing. The students taking Honors 350 (talk with Prof. Levy if you'd like to enroll) will be organizing a service-learning project in conjunction with Colloquium. Additionally, in early April you will be able to help with a neighborhood clean-up in Ivanhoe and/or assist a group of Kansas City Art Institute students in constructing a giant rain garden beside Brush Creek. More information on all of these initiatives to follow!

Questions to guide Colloquium:

- How do our observations and perceptions of environmental conditions affect our decisions and actions both now and in the future? How should they?
- Does the word "environment" mean different things to different people? How does our definition of "environment" affect our relationship to it? Furthermore, what is "nature" and how do our inherited understandings of nature impact our interactions with our environments?
- Are there reasons why things locate in certain places, whether we're speaking of cities, factories, neighborhoods, militaries, colonies of ants, or puddles of water? Should there be reasons that guide said locations?
- What environmental responsibilities, if any, do we have to human beings 1) ... in our immediate environment 2) ... in this nation 3.)... in other nations 4) ... in the future. How might answers to these questions necessarily involve answers to similar questions about environmental responsibilities to non-human animals, flora, ecosystems, etc?
- What is sustainability? Is achieving it solely a matter of individual choice and action or is something larger, more systemic required?
- How are individual choices influenced/ reinforced by various types of customs, conventions, traditions, and habits?