IPS 405 Science, Environment, and Media

Course Description
Science, Environment, and Media teaches you, through practice, to evaluate popular media topics from the lens of scientific perspective. Science major not a prerequisite!

SLOs
1. Synthesize and apply scientific principles to the review of popular print and digital media to evaluate environmental issues.
2. Conceptualize historic and current global environmental problems as systems from a scientific perspective.
3. Critique claims and evaluate media related to environmental issues in order to make decisions on everyday issues as a non-scientist.
4. Define scientific terminology, methodologies, and concepts on environmental issues.

Major Assignments

Individual Media Critiques
Four content areas covered in the first four weeks: Ecosystems; Laws of Thermodynamics; Air Pollution/Climate Change; Water Pollution. Within each content area, you will submit an individual critique of an article of your choosing that is of personal interest.

Small-Group Media Critiques
Four content areas covered in the first four weeks: Ecosystems; Laws of Thermodynamics; Air Pollution/Climate Change; Water Pollution. This group discussion is an informal opportunity to practice media analysis. Each week a different group member will select the article or electronic publication for your group to critique.

Major Project
Your Major Project will examine 8-10 popular media items from a scientific perspective, on a topic of personal interest or a topic relevant to your job or college major. Your Major Project can even build on the popular media items you critique, either individually or in groups, in the first four weeks of the course. Once your topic is approved by the instructor, you will then follow the guidelines provided to complete the Major Project, culminating in a 5- to 6-page paper.

Reading List

This course will use only a fraction of the book content. This content will be accessible through Canvas. If you would like a personal copy of the text, the text can be purchased online through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Chicken and Egg, or other online providers.

The Student Experience
Testimonials from Spring 2020 are forthcoming.