Environmental Humanities Capstone
Environment and Social Process
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**COURSE STAFF**

**Convener/Primary Lecturer Details:**
Name: Dr. Eben Kirksey  
Room: Morven Brown Room 333  
Phone: 9385.1489  
Email: eben.kirksey@unsw.edu.au  
Consultation Times: Thursdays, 1-2pm, or by appointment

**Environmental Humanities staff and affiliated faculty**
Dr. Thom van Dooren, t.van.dooren@unsw.edu.au  
Dr. Matthew Kearnes, m.kearnes@unsw.edu.au  
Prof. Vanessa Lemm, v.lemm@unsw.edu.au  
Prof. Stephen Muecke, s.muecke@unsw.edu.au  
Prof. Deborah Bird Rose, deborah.rose@mq.edu.au  
Prof. Nicolas Rasmussen, n.rasmussen@unsw.edu.au

**COURSE DETAILS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>2:00-5:00pm</th>
<th>Morven Brown Room 309</th>
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You will have the opportunity to design your own independent research project that will speak to contemporary debates in the Environmental Humanities. These research projects will use the method of multi-sited ethnography to “follow an organism”, or “follow an issue,” to several different sites in Sydney. You will situate your subject of study within economic, scientific, and political networks. Field-sites might include public parks and beaches, scientific laboratories, museums, abandoned lots and fragmented wildlands, or office spaces like environmental organizations or city councils.

Field trips to the Australian Museum, the National Herbarium of New South Wales, and Royal Botanical Gardens will introduce you to experts in the field and give you hands-on practice at conducting interviews and taking field notes. Training in the use of the latest digital equipment, software packages, and on-line tools will prepare you for future research. We will also discuss specific career opportunities that will open up to you with an Environmental Humanities degree.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the completion of this course students will be able to:

- Design independent ethnographic research projects (which involves conducting face-to-face interviews, transcribing recorded conversations, and writing field notes)
- Understand and discuss cutting-edge theoretical texts
- Use cutting-edge digital equipment and software packages
- Write-up advanced scholarly and professional research
COURSE SCHEDULE

Week One: Introduction and Overview
This lecture will give an overview of the course and recap key themes in the Environmental Humanities. The practice of ethnography will be introduced and the key components of the final project will be discussed.

Required reading
Matsutake Worlds Research Group, "Thoughts for a World of Poaching."

In class workshop: Introduction to Endnote (Part One)
Download Endnote software and bring a laptop to class:
https://www.it.unsw.edu.au/students/software/index.html

Week Two: Pick an Organism or an Issue
Deadline: Three typed quotes from weekly readings, 4pm Thursday


In class workshop: Pick an organism (on the 7th floor of the library with Dr. Kirksey) or pick an issue (with Dr. Kearnes).

Week Three: An Ethnographic Adventure
Soft Deadline: e-mail Dr. Kirksey a provisional final paper title
Deadline: Three typed quotes from weekly readings, 4pm Thursday

Required reading

Field trip: The Royal Botanical Garden (Dale Dixon, Herbarium Manager) and the Australian Museum.
Week Four: Multispecies Worlds
Deadline: Fieldnotes (scans of “raw” notes, as well as “cooked” write-ups) from the Ethnographic Adventure due 4pm Wednesday

No required reading or poaching assignments due this week.

Guest lecture: Deborah Bird Rose—see her selected publications below: Rose Wild Dog Dreaming, Rose “The Kiss of Life” (about flying foxes in the Royal Botanical Gardens); Rose and van Dooren, “Unloved Others.”

For additional background also see below: Kirksey, “From Rhizome to Banyan” and Thomson et al, “Genetic Mosaics in Strangler Fig Trees.”

Week Five: Interspecies Love
Deadline: Project Proposal. Due: Week Five, 4pm Wednesday
Deadline: Three typed quotes from weekly readings, 4pm Thursday

Required reading

In class workshop: Research ethics with Prof. Nicolas Rasmussen.
In class workshop: A group ethnography of place: Who lives in the Library Lawn? How do I approach a stranger for an interviews? How do I use the Participant Information Statement and Consent Form? How do I use a H4 Zoom digital recorder? Recorders can be checked out from 9.30-12.30 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday during session in Robert Webster Equipment Room 134. See https://trc.arts.unsw.edu.au/about/av/

Week Six: Situated Analysis
Deadline: Three typed quotes from weekly readings, 4pm Thursday

Required reading

In class workshop: Situational mapping.

For additional background See: Kim and Mike Fortun, “The Work of Markets: Filming Within Indian Mediascapes” for an example of a transcript.
Week Seven: Companion Species
Deadline: Key interview. Due: 4pm Wednesday
Deadline: Three typed quotes from weekly readings, 4pm Thursday

Required reading
Haraway, Donna. When Species Meet Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008, Introductions (pages 3-44)

In class workshop: Endnote part two (how to make a bibliography) plus using Google Scholar and JSTOR effectively.

Week Eight: Lively Capital
Deadline: Three typed quotes from weekly readings, 4pm Thursday

Required reading
Haraway, Donna. When Species Meet Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008, Value-Added Dogs (pages 45-67)

Guest Kate Riley of the UNSW Careers Development Unit will talk with us about possible futures for Environmental Humanities majors.

Week Nine: Memory Practices in the Sciences
Deadline: Three typed quotes from weekly readings, 4pm Thursday

Required reading

Field trip: The Australian Museum Archives (hosted by Vanessa Finney)
http://australianmuseum.net.au/Archives-and-Records

We might also return to The Royal Botanical Garden Library:
Mid-Semester Break: 28 Sept to 7 Oct

Week Ten: Ethics as Field Philosophy (Dr. Kirksey in California)
- **Deadline:** Ethnographic Field Notes. Due: Wednesday, 4pm, submitted to eben.kirksey@unsw.edu.au
- **Deadline:** Three typed quotes from weekly readings, 4pm Thursday, submitted to t.van.dooren@unsw.edu.au

**Guest lecturer:** Thom van Dooren—see his selected publications below.

**Required readings** To be announced

Week Eleven: Topic to be announced (Dr. Kirksey in California)
- **Deadline:** Three typed quotes from weekly readings, 4pm Thursday, submitted to m.kearnes@unsw.edu.au

**Guest lecturer:** Matthew Kearnes—see his selected publications below.

**Required readings** To be announced

Week Twelve: Yearnings and Becomings (Dr. Kirksey back in Sydney)
- **Deadline:** Literature Review (1,000 words of prose plus compiled EndNote database). Due: Wednesday, 4pm, submitted to eben.kirksey@unsw.edu.au
- **Deadline:** Three typed quotes from weekly readings, 4pm Thursday.

**Required reading**


Week Thirteen **Deadline:** Students are *strongly encouraged* to submit a rough draft of their final paper to an Environmental Humanities staff member for critical feedback: Wednesday, 4pm.

**FINAL DEADLINE:** Final Paper (6,000 word limit). Due: Wednesday, 13 November, 4pm
Additional Readings


**COURSE EVALUATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Student evaluative feedback on this course is welcomed and is gathered periodically, using among other means UNSW’s Course and Teaching Evaluation and Improvement (CATEI) process.

Student feedback is taken seriously, and continual improvements are made to the course based on such feedback. Significant changes to the course will be communicated to subsequent cohorts of students taking the course.
REFERENCES

All required readings are listed above and will be made accessible to students. Detailed access instructions will be given the first day of class.

What are references?
When you write an assignment at university, you are required to refer to the work of other authors. Each time you do so, it is necessary to identify their work by making reference to it, both in the text of your assignment and in a list at the end of your assignment. This practice of acknowledging authors is known as referencing or citing. References must be provided whenever you use someone else’s opinions, theories, data or organization of material. If your paper lacks references, then it constitutes plagiarism which means taking the ideas or words of others and passing them off as your own. Plagiarism is a type of intellectual theft that carries very stiff penalties at UNSW. If you plagiarize, especially during your final year at UNSW, you risk failing and additional disciplinary action.

You need to reference information from books, articles, videos, computers, other print or electronic sources and personal communications. A reference is required if you quote (use someone else’s exact words), copy (use figures, tables or structure), paraphrase (convert someone else’s ideas into your own words), summarize (use a brief account of someone else’s ideas). References enhance your writing and assist your reader by: showing the breadth of your research, strengthening your academic argument, directing the reader to the source of your information, allowing the reader to consult your sources independently, enabling the reader to verify your data.

An in-line citation looks like this: Colonialism transformed the ecosystems of North America (Crosby 1972). All direct quotes of sources should include the page number. “Most of the plants that came to America between 1492 and 1600 that do not produce food for humans or, at least, flowers for the pleasure of human senses, crossed the Atlantic as informally,” according to Alfred Crosby. “Their seeds arrived in folds of textiles, in clods of mud, in dung, and in a thousand other ways” (Crosby 1972: 73).

For more nuanced information about referencing and citation style, please consult the 2012 "Abridged Harvard Referencing Guide” available in the PDF collection of course readings and online (http://www.cqu.edu.au/?a=14032) Students seeking resources or help with references can also obtain assistance from the UNSW Library. One starting point for assistance is:
http://info.library.unsw.edu.au/web/services/services.html

Also see below for information on Endnote, a software package for managing citations.
ASSESSMENT

This intensive seminar will be oriented around original ethnographic research projects speaking to contemporary debates in the Environmental Humanities. You will conduct multi-sited ethnographies, following a specific organism, issue, or object to different sites in Sydney. Using methods described by George Marcus—“Following the People,” “Following the Thing,” or “Following the Controversy”—you will situate your subject of study within economic, scientific, and political networks. Field-sites might include public parks and beaches, or abandoned lots and fragmented wildlands, or office spaces like environmental organisations or city councils. The final project will be completed in five stages and the combined total of these components will equal 90% of your final mark.

Fieldnotes from the Ethnographic Adventure due Week Four (4pm Wednesday) will be worth 10% of your final mark.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Fieldnotes from the Ethnographic Adventure</th>
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<td><strong>Practice Fieldnotes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Value:</strong> 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Due date:</strong> Week Four, Wednesday 4pm</td>
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<td><strong>Limit:</strong> 600 typed words, plus scanned scratch notes.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Final Project</th>
<th>Part One: Project Proposal</th>
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<td><strong>Project Proposal</strong></td>
<td>Have you done any previous research, creative writing, or critical analysis that you intend to use during this course? Are there any authors from previous courses whose work you would like to build upon? What organisms, issues, or technologies will you study? What places will you visit for your multi-sited ethnography? Will you need special permissions to hang out there? Identify a key person who you would like to interview for this project and include a draft e-mail to this person along with your proposal (don’t include the name or the e-mail address of the person who you’d like to interview, keep his or her identity anonymous at this stage).</td>
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<td><strong>Value:</strong> 5%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Due date:</strong> Week Five, Wednesday 4pm</td>
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<td><strong>Limit:</strong> 300 words</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Project</td>
<td>Part Two: Key Interview</td>
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<td><strong>Key Interview</strong></td>
<td>Set up a time to interview the key person who you identified in your project proposal. This person might be a scientist, a policy maker, or someone else who has an important relationship to the organism, thing, or controversy you are studying. Aim to have the interview last 30-45 minutes. Ask for permission to record the interview (when you set up the interview make sure that it will take place in a place where there is little background noise). Write a complete, word-by-word, transcript of your interview.</td>
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<td><strong>Value:</strong> 15%</td>
<td>Expect to have from 1,500-2,500 words of transcribed text.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Due date:</strong> Week Seven, Wednesday 4pm 11 September</td>
<td>See: Kim and Mike Fortun, “The Work of Markets: Filming Within Indian Mediascapes” for an example of a transcript.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Final Project</th>
<th>Part Three: Ethnographic Field Notes</th>
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<td><strong>Ethnographic Field Notes</strong></td>
<td>The subject of your study—the particular organism, issue, or object you choose—will shape your field site. If you are interested in studying an environmental controversy, like climate change, you might want to find “meaning-in-interaction,” to paraphrase Garfinkel, as you engage in deep hanging out with your interlocutors.</td>
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<td><strong>Value:</strong> 20%</td>
<td>If the organism you are interested in is stationary, like a particular tree or a patch of mushrooms, then your fieldwork might be focused on one central site where you conduct intensive research (at least five visits), with occasional visits to a couple of other relevant places.</td>
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<td><strong>Due date:</strong> Week Ten, Wednesday, 4pm 9 October</td>
<td>If the subject of your research is more flighty, like a bird or a bat, then extensive research in multiple locales might be a better approach (around five sites). Jot down copious notes in a notebook while you are in the field. Also make “head notes” that you can write down after you leave.</td>
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<td>You should conduct at least five interviews. Remember to hand out participant information and consent forms.</td>
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<td>Compile your notes and transcribed interviews. Then write up “thick description” of your site.</td>
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<td>Final deliverables: 1,500 words of “cooked” field notes, with a complete appendix of all “raw” materials: photocopied field notebooks, transcribed “head notes,” and transcribed interviews.</td>
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<td>Final Project</td>
<td>Part Four: Literature Review</td>
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<td>Literature Review</td>
<td>What else has been written about the organisms and issues you are studying? Have other scholars in the environmental humanities (or allied disciplines like history, cultural anthropology, philosophy, and cultural studies) already published research in related areas? What theoretical ideas might you import to understand your particular research problem? <strong>One paragraph of this literature review should be a tight polemic</strong> about how your empirical evidence—your field notes, interview, and other ethnographic material—might contribute to existing debates in the environmental humanities literature. You are encouraged to incorporate quotes from your weekly readings in this literature review.</td>
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<td>Value: 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due weekly Thursday, 4pm Typed quotes from weekly readings</td>
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<td>Final Literature Review Week Twelve Wednesday, 4pm 23 October</td>
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<td>Weekly quotes from assigned readings Three sentences maximum. (1% each week = 10% total) These must be submitted to the course convener and CCed to <a href="mailto:environmental-humanities-capstone@googlegroups.com">environmental-humanities-capstone@googlegroups.com</a></td>
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<td>Final Literature Review (Due 23 October) Endnote database with minimum of 40 references, annotated with key typed quotes. Plus 1,000 words of prose discussing the literature (10%).</td>
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<th>Final Project</th>
<th>Part Five: Final Paper</th>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>Integrate everything you have written in this class into a final paper (Limit: 6,000 words). Tightly focus your paper around your polemic from your literature review.</td>
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<td>Value: 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due: Wednesday, 4pm 13 November</td>
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Assignment Submission

- The cut off time for all assignment submissions in the School is 4pm of the stated due date.
- The assignment must be sent by 4pm on the due date by email to your lecturer (eben.kirksey@unsw.edu.au) unless otherwise indicated above in the Course Outline.
- It should be CCed to assessment@unsw.edu.au. All emailed assessments sent to assessment@unsw.edu.au will receive an electronic acknowledgement.
- Weekly reading quotes should also be submitted to the whole class at: environmental-humanities-capstone@googlegroups.com

Important Note

- Electronic copies emailed to assessment@unsw.edu.au will not be marked.
- The electronic copy will be used as evidence of assignment submission during appeal and dispute cases. Students have no recourse if this soft copy is not submitted. Therefore it is essential that students keep the electronic record of their sent assignment (eg. If assignment was sent to assessment@unsw.edu.au: the original sent email with the attached assignment kept in their ‘sent box’ and the electronic acknowledgment.

Assignment Collection

Assignments should be collected from your lecturer and must be collected by the owner/author of the assignment.

Assignment Extensions

A student may apply to the Lecturer/Tutor for an extension to the submission date of an assignment. Requests for extension must be made via myUNSW before the submission due date, and must demonstrate exceptional circumstances, which warrant the granting of an extension. If medical grounds preclude submission of assignment by due date, contact should be made with subject coordinator as soon as possible. A medical certificate will be required for late submission and must be appropriate for the extension period.

To apply for an extension please log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services channel > Online Services > Special Consideration

Late Submission of Assignments

Assignments submitted after the due or extended date will incur a 5% penalty per day including weekends (calculated from the maximum marks available for that assignment). Assignments received more than 10 calendar days after the due or extended date will not be allocated a mark.
ATTENDANCE

To successfully complete this unit you are required to attend minimum 80% of classes. If this requirement is not met you will fail the unit. The Lecturer will keep attendance records. Punctuality is also mandatory. Students who are more than 10 minutes late will be marked as absent. It is University policy that students attend a minimum of 80% of all classes. Absence from more than two classes can result in your being refused final assessment.

ACADEMIC HONESTY AND PLAGIARISM

Students seeking information on plagiarism should visit the following web site:
http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/index.html

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY

UNSW’s Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others.

Any OHS concerns should be raised with your immediate supervisor, the School’s OHS representative, or the Head of School. The OHS guidelines are available at:

STUDENT EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to, or at the commencement of the course. Alternatively, the Student Equity and Diversity Unit can be contacted on 9385 4734. Further information is available at:
http://www.studentequity.unsw.edu.au

GRIEVANCES

All students should be treated fairly in the course of their studies at UNSW. Students who feel they have not been dealt with fairly should in the first instance attempt to resolve any issues with their tutor or the course convenors. If such an approach fails to resolve the matter, the School of Humanities and Languages has an academic member of staff who acts as a Grievance Officer for the School. This staff member is identified on the notice board in the School of Humanities and Languages. Further information about UNSW grievance procedures is available at: https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/Complaints.html
OTHER STUDENT INFORMATION

myUNSW is the single online access point for UNSW services and information, integrating online services for applicants, commencing & current students and UNSW staff. To visit myUNSW please visit either of the below links:

https://my.unsw.edu.au
https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/atoz/ABC.html