Macaulay Honors College SEMINAR III: Science & Technology in NYC

IDC3002H
Baruch College, FALL 2012
Professor Jason Munshi-South
TuTh 11:10 AM – 12:25 PM, Rm VC 9117

Faculty:	Jason Munshi-South, Asst. Prof., Baruch College
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Office Hours:	Prof. Munshi-South: by appointment
	ITF: TuTh 12:30-2:30 PM
Course Website:	http://macaulay.cuny.edu/eportfolios/munshisouth12/

Overview:
In the third Honors College seminar, students will learn about the many facets of environmental science and technology, using New York City as a template for the issues being faced by cities around the world. Through lectures, guest speakers, readings, field trips, and independent research projects, students will examine the geology, past environmental landscapes, fauna & flora, resilience, reclamation, and future of the NYC ecosystem. By the end of this course students will be able to critically evaluate the contemporary NYC landscape as the outcome of interacting ecological processes and human decisions about urban development. Collaborative learning through team projects will culminate in presentations at an Honors College symposium at the end of the semester. Projects will take an in-depth look at ecological, evolutionary, or other environmental issues in New York City.

Required Readings & Discussion Questions:

Marris, E. 2011. *Rambunctious Garden: Saving Nature in a Post-wild World.* Bloomsbury, New York, NY. (this text is available in hardcover from multiple online booksellers, and as a Kindle edition on amazon.com)

Scientific articles and other required readings will be posted on BlackBoard and/or the course eportfolio. Students are required to read these materials **before** each class period.

Grading:

Attendance / Participation	10%
Blog / Writing Assignments	25%
Midterm Exam	35%
Draft Presentation	5%
Final Macaulay Assignment	15%

Sustainable Class Activities:

- asking questions before, during, or after class
- coming to office hours
- offering *constructive* feedback on the class, positive or negative
- inquiring about research experiences and other opportunities
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Unsustainable Class Activities:

- arriving late or leaving early (unless *absolutely* necessary; let me know in advance)
- talking to classmates during the lecture
- texting, IM'ing, e-mailing, etc. NO LAPTOPS OR PHONES IN CLASS EXCEPT WHEN WE ARE USING LAPTOPS TOGETHER AS A CLASS!
- Cheating / Plagiarism (will be met with swift and harsh punishment)

Notes on Grading:

- Your grades are earned by your knowledge as measured by performance on exams, labs, and other assignments. Grades are not assigned by negotiation with the professor, by how hard you worked in class, or by your "need" for a specific grade to graduate, apply to medical school, etc.

- Grades are not an indication of your value as a person or whether or not I like you.

- There is no such thing as "extra credit" in this course.

- Life will go on even if you did not earn the grade you anticipated at the beginning of this course.

- There is no curve in this course. I may slightly bump up grades of students if they are near the border of two grades (e.g. C and C+) and participated regularly, but such a bump is entirely at my discretion and not open to negotiation.

- Requests for grade changes must be submitted on paper to my mailbox in Rm. 506 within two weeks of receiving the graded assignment. You must include a full explanation along with the original graded assignment.

Baruch College Attendance Policy (Undergraduate Bulletin, p. 41):
"All students are required to attend every session of their courses. If a freshman or sophomore is absent in excess of twice the number of class sessions per week, the instructor must give the student a WU grade, which counts as an F. The instructor may give a junior or senior a WU grade (the equivalent of an F) for excessive absences. The WU grade may be given by the instructor at any time." Absences should only be for serious illnesses and family emergencies.

Course Schedule (SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME!):

TuTh	Course Topics	Reading
Tu 8/28	Introduction to Seminar III	
Th 8/30	The Anthropocene and Urban Ecology	Vitousek et al. (1997) Kareiva et al. (2011)
Tu 9/04	Values & Ethics	Marris, Chaps. 1-2
Th 9/06	**WORKSHOP**: NYC Env Health Tracking Portal, Nancy Jeffery, NYC DOH	**12:30-1:45 PM**
Tu 9/11	What is an urban forest?	Marris, Chaps. 3-4
Th 9/13	Urban Wildlife	Puth & Burns (2009); Marris, Chap. 5
Tu 9/18	**NO CLASS**	
Th 9/20	**FIELD TRIP**: Reclaiming urban space – the HighLine and native pollinators (self-guided)	Stalter (2004)
Tu 9/25	**NO CLASS**	
Th 9/27	Invasive Species	Marris, Chap. 6-7
Tu 10/2	(Pre)historical ecosystem of NYC	Marris, Chap. 8-9
Th 10/4	Urban Evolutionary Biology	Marris, Chap. 10
Tu 10/9	**NO CLASS**	
Th 10/11	**FIELD TRIP**: New York Botanical Garden (Bronx)	TBD
Tu 10/16	EXAM	
Th 10/18	ITF WORKSHOP	
Tu 10/23	Tree Identification Lab	study "New York City Trees"
Th 10/25	**FIELD TRIP**: Tree ID @ Stuyvesant Cove Park / your street	
Tu 10/30	GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Ellen Pehek, Chief Ecologist for NYC Parks	
Th 11/01	"Rambunctious Garden" Discussion with author Emma Marris	
Tu 11/06	NYC's Water Supply	
Th 11/08	NYC's Water Supply	
Tu 11/13	GASLAND	
Th 11/15	GASLAND; discussion	
Tu 11/20	**Student Presentations – Research Posters**	

Th 11/22	**NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING**	
Tu 11/27	Urban ecology & emerging infectious diseases	Bradley & Altizer (2006)
Th 11/29	**GUEST SPEAKER**: Caroline Bragdon, NYC Dept of Health & Mental Hygiene	**12:30-1:45 PM**
Tu 12/04	Deer Management in the suburban USA	
Th 12/6	TBD	
Tu 12/11	TBD	