

CAT 3 Collaborative Playlist: [The Future Planet Playlist: CAT 3 2021.](#)

Please add songs that strike you as futuristic as you see fit!

Course Description

This CAT 3 course will examine how popular culture—magazine/newspaper articles, literature, film, and television—has and continues to imagine the environment, with particular attention to the climate crisis. From contemporary films like *Okja* and *Weathering with You* to Hollywood's *The Day After Tomorrow*, we will examine how mass media promotes, questions, and reinforces environmental politics. How can these future worlds help us understand and engage with our past, current, and future relationship to the environment? How do these films shape our own relationship with the planet? How do these visions soothe or exacerbate anxieties about topics like global warming? Potential topics we will cover include (but are not limited to) the climate crisis; capitalism and the environment; race, gender, and the environment; technology and the environment; and the politics of food.

1. Course calendar subject to change.
2. Required texts: *They Say, I Say (CAT Edition)* & Canvas/Library Reserves (occasionally Netflix)
3. Click [HERE](#) for a link to all the screenings in the course that are on reserve. (Login with active directory info). You can also access all of the screenings (except *Okja*) via Canvas.
4. Readings are linked below as PDFs or html links or are from *They Say, I Say CAT Edition (TSIS)*. If you do not have access to this, please see the PDFs posted under “Resources.”
5. *Please note that many of the films and TV shows we watch will contain violence and sex. We will also discuss some disturbing topics. Please review the syllabus during Weeks 1 and 2 to make sure this is the right course for you.*

When to do what:

1. Lectures will be asynchronous and released on Sundays or Mondays. You then have the full week to complete the module (done by Friday at 11:59pm).
2. All readings are required (except for those noted as recommended) and must be completed before your discussion section on Mondays.
3. All screenings (also required) need to be completed before you initially participate in the discussion board and attend section on Wednesdays.
4. There will be a couple weeks where you will need to meet as a group with your TA. Be sure to plan that out at the beginning of the term.
5. **All assignments are due by 11:59pm on Fridays, unless otherwise noted below.**

Course Calendar

Weeks 1-4 = Theoretical and Scientific (not courtesy of me!) frameworks.

Weeks 5-9 = topics in representing the environment in (mostly) Western media, as it intersects with issues of race, gender, class, ability.

Week 9-10 = your films & presentations!

Week 1: Introductions & Frameworks: The Stories We Tell /Have Told

Lectures: “Course Intro;” “On Storytelling, Our Environmental Pasts, & Our Futures”

Read: [Walter Benjamin, “Theses on History”](#) & [Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, “Skywoman Falling”](#) & [Kim Stanley Robinson, “There is no Planet B”](#)

Recommended: [“Re-thinking Robin Kimmerer_Skywoman Falling \(Archive.org\).docxthe Apocalypse: An Indigenous Futurist Manifesto”](#) & [“POC in Horror & Fantasy”](#) & [“The Topics Dystopian Films Won’t Touch”](#) & [“Why are dystopian films on the rise again?”](#) & [“We Are Not Here to Learn What We Already Know”](#)

Week 2: Climate Change 101

Lectures: “Climate Change 101” (Guest Lecture: Dr. Corey Gabriel (SIO)) & TBD

Read: [“Bending the Curve”](#) pgs 3-23; Sarah Jaquette Ray, [“Get Schooled on the Role of Emotions in Climate Justice Work”](#) & (please note: in this essay, there is discussion of suicidal ideation and trauma in the first few pages); and Naomi Oreskes, [“To Understand Science Denial, Look to History”](#) & [John Oliver, “Climate Change Debate”](#) & TSIS ch. 22 “Evaluating Sources” & ch. 28 “Annotated Bibliographies”

Watch: *The Day After Tomorrow* (2004)

Recommended: Carson Kilpatrick, [“Victory Over the Sun”](#) & (UCSD textbook on climate change) & [“This Earth Day is like No Other”](#) & [“Rise”](#) & [“Rhetoric, Climate Change, and Justice \(an Interview\)”](#)

Note: form groups & come up with a general research topic (Section #2)

Week 3: Capitalism & Climate

Lectures: “What is Capitalism?” & “Wall-E: Critique and/or Celebration” & “On Genre” & Library Tutorial #1

Read: Octavia Butler, [“A Few Rules for Predicting the Future”](#) & [Naomi Klein, “Fossil Fuel Shock Doctrine”](#) & *They Say, I Say* ch 20 “Getting a start on research”

Watch: *Wall-E* (2008)

Recommended: [“Political Theory, Karl Marx”](#) & [“How protecting the ocean can save species and stop climate change”](#)

Do: Library Tutorial (Topic Mapping)

Write: Preliminary Topic Proposal Draft Due in Section #2 (as a group) (Not graded)

Week 4: Narrating Science & the Environment

Lectures: “Guest Lecture: Melissa Sexton (A Conversation)”

Read: Rachel Carson, [“Silent Spring, Part I”](#) & [“The Misguided Conception of Wilderness Comes at the Expense of Indigenous People”](#) & [“Art Makes Environmental Change Real”](#)

Watch: *Jurassic Park* (1993)

Recommended: [“Climate Fiction: Can books save the planet?”](#) & [“This Song is Composed from 133 Years of Climate Change Data”](#)

Write: Annotated Bibliography + Topic Proposal (Individual)

Do (optional): Celebrate [Earth Day](#) by Taking Action on Climate Change!

Week 5: Race, Class, & Environmentalism

Lectures: “White Flight” & TBD

Read: [“The Environmental Movement Needs to Reckon with its Racist History”](#) & [Colette Pichon Battle, “Climate Change Will Displace Millions”](#) & [“Letter to Biden”](#) (from Indigenous women leaders) & [Vann R. Newkirk, “Earth’s New Gilded Era”](#)

Technology” & TSIS ch. 16 “Collaborating”

Watch: *Elysium* (2013)

**please note there are images of police violence in this film. If you don’t feel comfortable watching it, please reach out to me or your TA asap.*

Recommended: [“I am Cheo”](#) & [“No More Broken Treaties \(On Keystone XL\)”](#)

Write: Rough Draft Literature Review (Individual)

Week 6: Pollution, Clusters, & Slow Violence

Read: Rob Nixon, *Slow Violence Introduction* (at least to pg. 30. I recommend the whole first chapter though!) & TSIS chapters for this week: ch. 23 “Synthesizing Ideas”

Watch: [Kelsey Leonard, “Why the lakes and waters should have the same rights as people”](#)

Watch: *Blade Runner* (Old or New) OR *Godzilla* (old) → you choose!

Recommended: Leo Marx, [“Environmental Degradation and the Ambiguous Social Role of Science and Technology”](#) and *The Host* (2006)

Write: Final Draft Literature Review Draft (Individual)

Week 7: Food Security, Food Justice, & Capitalism

Lectures: “Okja, Food, & Capitalism” & “Globalization & Food” & Storyboarding, Etc.”

Read: [Robin Wall Kimmerer, “The Three Sisters”](#) & [“The Activists Working to Remake the Food System”](#) & [“Heat, Smoke, and Covid are Battering the Workers who feed America”](#)

Watch: *Okja* (2017) (note: images of animal cruelty) or *Soylent Green*

Recommended: [Jonathan Safran Foer, “Against Meat”](#) & [Charles Stross, “World Building 404”](#) & [“What Will Our Planet Look Like in the Next 100 Years?”](#)

Write: Research Proposal Final Draft Due (Group)

Note: Workshop in Section #1-->Helps turn literature review into proposal

Week 8: Powering the Future

Lectures: “Afrofuturism” & “On BP, Clean Energy, & Responsibility for Resources” & “BP, Museum, & Colonization”

Read: Kendra Pierre-Louis, [“Wakanda Doesn’t Have Suburbs”](#)

Watch: *Black Panther* (2018)

Recommended: "[Wakanda Forever](#): The Pleasures, The Politics, The Problems" & *How to Save a Planet*, "Climate Change & BLM" & *A Trip to the Moon* (1902)

Write: Rough (Rough) Draft Film Project: Outline/Storyboard Due by Section #2 (for Workshop)

*Suggestion: Have an outline/storyboard done this week and start filming.

Week 9: Rain & Romance at the End of the World

Lectures: No lectures this week!

Watch: *Weathering with You* (2019)

Write: Draft Video + Curatorial Statement Due by Section #2 (for workshop).

→ **Meet with your TA** & Bring a draft of your video + Curatorial Statement Due to that meeting. The goal is to provide feedback and make sure you are all on the same page!

Week 10: Final Project Presentations, Reflection, & Where Do We Go?

Lectures: "Wrapping it Up" & Best of Your Videos!

Read: [The Green New Deal](#) & [Greta Thunberg at UN Climate Action Conference](#) & [Alice Walker, "Calling All Grand Mothers"](#) (*All We Can Save*) & TSIS chapters for this week: ch. 30 "Reflections"

Recommended: *The Red New Deal*, "Introduction" (Library Reserves)

Write: Final Draft Video + Curatorial Statement Due by Tuesday (June 1) at 11:59pm. You will post your videos to the discussion board and turn in your statement (1 per group) via assignments.

Do: Fill out Group work survey & Participation Survey

Finals Week:

Final Reflection Due Friday of Finals Week by 2:30pm (this is the end of our scheduled final exam time).

This will be graded complete/incomplete

Additional Recommended Screenings/Readings:

_____ (That sadly didn't fit on the syllabus ...)

The Martian

The River

[Smithsonian Column on The Anthropocene](#)