COURSE CONTENT

Course Coordinator: Monamie Bhadra HAINES

Course Code / Title: HS4037 Terraformations: Technology, culture and nature in a globalizing world

Pre-requisites: HS1001 Person and society + HS2001 Classical Social Theory + HS2002 Doing Social Research + HS3001 Contemporary Social Theory + HS3002 Understanding Social Statistics

No. of AUs.: 4

Contact Hours: 52

Course Aims

This course aims to introduce senior level students to contemporary trends in interdisciplinary science and technology studies (STS) to understand how scholars are grappling with the globalized landscape of expertise, technology and capital, and how they are shaping, and being shaped by our different cultural and natural worlds, in order to prepare students for critical engagement in academic communities and public service. To achieve this aim, this course will expose students to cutting-edge, award-winning scholarship in STS and have students learn how to write book reviews and Op-Ed pieces, as they are key modes of communicating within academic and public life. Students interested in STS issues from academic perspectives as well as those who are keen on creating interventions to intractable world problems with STS sensibilities should take this class. The value of taking such a class is to generate capacities for interdisciplinary learning and action about pressing contemporary issues of science and technology.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Discuss the relationships between technology, culture, knowledge and nature in a globalizing world.
2. Explain the ideologies of specific forms of knowledge production in international organization and how they shape development interventions.
3. Analyze both how technologies and policies discipline and shape our political subjectivities.
4. Articulate how people and non-humans (meaning, animals, plants and the environment) resist disciplining.
5. Critique the methodologies used by scholars in the interdisciplinary field of science and technology studies.
Course Content

List of key topics taught:
- Energy colonization
- Theorizing decolonization
- Theorizing race
- Politics of global medical interventions
- Politics of time and technology
- Politics of human-animal relationships
- Politics of human-plant relationships
- Technology and activism
- Coproduction of knowledge, culture and environment
- Methodologies and challenges of studying the global

Course Assessment

CA1 : 25%
CA2 : 25%
CA3 : 20%
CA4 : 10%
CA5 : 10%
Total 100%

Reading and References

The list of books are available on course reserves at the library. I have provided PDF copies of many of the books. Other books are available for purchase at your book store.


Course Instructor

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Office Location</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monamie Bhadra</td>
<td>HSS-05-30</td>
<td>6315 8742</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Monamie.haines@ntu.edu.sg">Monamie.haines@ntu.edu.sg</a></td>
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Planned Weekly Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>ILO</th>
<th>Readings/ Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction: Thinking through the metaphor of terraformations?</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Conceptualizing the Global</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,5</td>
<td>Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing (2015). The Mushroom at the End of the World:</td>
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<td>Page</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Preview</td>
<td>Author/Title</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Globalizing the globe</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,5</td>
<td>Jennifer Gabrys (2016). <em>Program Earth: Environmental Sensing Technology and the Making of a Computational Planet.</em> (University of Minnesota Press).</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Terraforming Nature</td>
<td>1,2,3,4,5</td>
<td>Timothy Choy (2011). <em>Ecologies of Remaking nature</em></td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Due: Op-Ed piece</td>
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| 9 | Medical interventions | 1,2,3,4,5                            | Alison Kenner (2018) Breathtaking: Asthma Care in a Time of Climate Change environment. (University of Minnesota Press)  
<p>|   |                     |                                      | Eric Aarden. (2017). “Projecting and producing ‘usefulness’ of biomedical research infrastructures; or |</p>
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Due: methodology journal |