New Interdisciplinary Seminar – Open to All Graduate Students and Advanced Undergraduates Interested in Global Sustainability Issues, Media, and Local Action.

Climate Change Imaginaries, Environmental Media Studies, and Global Challenges of the 21st Century

ML 4813 (41161)  Mondays  6:00-8:45 p.m. in the Kendeda Building
ML 8803 (41162)
LMC 6215

Instructor: Professor Anna Westerstahl Stenport, Chair of the School of Modern Languages and Founding co-Director of the Atlanta Global Studies Center

This interdisciplinary discussion-based course examines a variety of climate change imaginaries from the perspectives of humanities, social sciences, and the arts. We will analyze and assess how media and visual cultures shape our understanding of climate change and global warming as well as attempts at adaption and mitigation. We will inquire into the form and function of cultural and social climate change dystopias, analyze the concept of the Anthropocene, and investigate how media makers imagine alternate worlds of sustainable agency.

Divided into three sections, the first part of the course sets the stage by discussing trends in climate change media and visual representation and introduces core theoretical readings about the concept of the Anthropocene. The second part provides a case study of climate change impact in the Arctic and emphasizes how Indigenous populations of the global circumpolar north address the issues in media and the arts, including framing climate change as a human rights violation and an extension of colonialism. The third part of the course is organized around project-based learning, where participants critically investigate representations of climate change discourse locally, in Atlanta or the Southeast, or in another region of the world with which they are familiar or hold a research interest. The course emphasizes collaboration, dialogue, discussion, creativity, and team-based learning and leadership. There will also be a set of distinguished guest speakers! The course is open to graduate students and advanced undergraduates in any field with the hope that we will have a range of disciplinary interests represented.

MS-GMC students:
Please register under the LMC rubric; all other students, please register under the ML rubric. The class is limited to 24 students.