The People Versus the Sea
ANST-GA 2500

Professor: Paul Greenberg

Syllabus as of January, 2022

Class Hours: Thursdays, 2:00-4:30
Class will be conducted in person

Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:00-2:00
Office hours will be conducted virtually

Instructor Contact Email: pg472@nyu.edu
(please use only this email address for correspondence)
I Overview: during this course we will look at humanity's relationship with the sea through the lens of a number of different types of ocean life. With each organism we will examine a different kind of human/ocean interaction and discuss relevant developmental points in that interaction. Our conversation on cod for example will bring us into larger questions of fisheries management and whether any wild fishery can be "sustainable". Our session on whales will examine sentience in captivity and the movement to free cetaceans from the entertainment industry.

II Assignments, expectations and grading: while there will be some academic reading in the course, students are encouraged to produce work aimed at communicating ideas and information about the sea to a general interest audience. The number one rule I would like you to follow is:

**Strive to produce work that you yourself would want to read or see**

In all there will be three written assignments and two in-class presentations which will be as follows:

A. Written Assignments

1. **Book Review.** On the first day of class each I will ask each of you to choose a book to review. You will write a 1000-1500 word essay in the style of something you might find in the New York Times Book Review. See an example review [here](#) Reviews will be due in rolling fashion with one or two reviews due each week coupled with an in-class presentation (see Presentation Assignments below). Note depending upon class enrollment this assignment may be assigned to teams. Grade percentage: 10%

2. **Mid-term short form piece.** At mid-term you will write a 1000 word short profile of a person or creature connected to the sea. A sample can be found [here](#) Grade percentage: 10%

3. **Final Single Species Research Paper.** You will choose a single species (or basket of similar species) and write a reported research paper about that species' particular struggle with humankind. The paper should be at least 2000 words in length and be similar to something you might read in The New Yorker, or any other long-format nonfiction platform. An example [here](#) This will be due the final day of class coupled with an in-class presentation (see Presentation Assignments below)

**Note: the species you choose must be outside of the 12 we are focusing on in the curriculum** Grade percentage: 40%
B. Oral Assignments

1. **Book Review Presentation**: based on your book review you are to create a 10-15 minute oral presentation coupled with appropriate slides.
   Grade percentage: 10%

2. **Guest Speaker Interview**: Each of you will be assigned to be the lead interviewer of our guest speaker of the week.
   Grade percentage: 10%

3. **Single Species Presentation**: based on your single species research paper you are to create a 5 minute oral presentation coupled with appropriate slides.
   Grade percentage: 10%

4. **Daily attendance and class participation**: Attendance is mandatory and participation will be taken into account in determining an overall class participation grade.
   Grade percentage for attendance and participation: 10%
   **Note**: Failure to attend 2 or more classes will result in the loss of the 10% participation grade.

C. Reading/Viewing Assignments

I will try to keep weekly reading under 100 pages and any video viewing to under an hour. Readings/viewing assignments for each week will be posted on NYU Brightspace a week in advance. Viewing assignments will be put on hold at the media room of the Bobst Library and/or made available via web link if possible.

III Policies

A. **Late Papers/Extensions/Incompletes**: 
Late papers will lose 1/3 letter grade for each day late. Extensions and incompletes will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. If you want to request either, please do so in advance.

B. **Academic Dishonesty**: 
Plagiarism results in failure in the class and referral to an academic dean. Plagiarism includes: copying sentences or fragments from any source without quotes or references; not citing every source used in your papers; citing internet information without proper citation; presenting someone else’s work as your own; or copying verbatim from any source. You are subject to the CAS guidelines on plagiarism: cas.nyu.edu/page/ug.academicintegrity

C. **Academic Accommodations**: 
Academic accommodations are available to any student with a chronic, psychological, visual, mobility, learning disability, or who is deaf or hard of hearing. Students should please register with the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities 212-998-4980.
NYU Henry and Lucy Moses Center for Students with Disabilities
IV Field Trips

I hope to organize several field trips. Dates and times of those are TBD but will be included during normal class hours. Field trips will be made in accordance with University COVID protocol.

V Guest Speakers

Since this is a graduate seminar my assumption is that many of you are in the midst of choosing a professional direction. For this reason, I've invited guest speakers from a range of different fields to talk about both the subject we're covering that week and their careers. Nonprofit activists, academics, and folks from the commercial fishing community are currently on the list.

VI Class format

Class runs from 2:00-4:30 on Thursdays. Format will vary week to week but the basic plan is this:
2:00-2:30 Discussion of readings
2:30-2:50 Student book review presentations
2:50-3:00 Break
3:00-4:00 Guest lecture with student investigator
4:00-4:30 Workshop on writing/wrap up discussion

VII Office Hours

Office hours will be held on Wednesdays 12:00-2:00 on Zoom. Students wishing to attend office hours should sign up for zoom slots which I’ll post Tuesday.
WEEK BY WEEK SCHEDULE

Class 1, January 27: Introduction

Please come to class prepared to answer these three questions:

1. What are your professional career goals?
2. What is your relationship to the sea?
3. What is your strongest form of communication: nonfiction writing, fiction writing, spoken presentation, studio art, media (audio video) or other.

Readings (to be completed in advance of class – hyperlinks provided below):

- **Covering the Seas, an Ocean Reporting Guide**
  (a general reporting guide that will help you in your research for this class)

- **New York Times Book Review of Eels**
  (meant as a work sample to guide your own book reviews)

- **New Yorker Talk of the Town on Genetically Engineered Salmon**
  (meant as a work sample to guide your own short midterm essay)

- **New York Times essay "A Catfish by Any Other Name"**
  (meant as a work sample to guide your own final term paper)

During this opening session we will discuss class goals, your personal professional goals, interview techniques, and other background you’ll need to know before the next session.

Class 2, February 3: Beginnings—Whales and how ocean activism began

**Guest Speaker: Carl Safina**

**Student Interviewer: TBD**

**Student Book Reviewer(s): TBD**

**Student Book(s) Reviewed:** Undrowned, Alexis Pauline Gumbs
                            Trying Leviathan by D. Graham Burnett

**Additional Readings: TBD**
Class 3, February 10: The Rise of the Fishes and How We Fit In

Guest Speaker: Solomon David

Student Interviewer: TBD

Student Book Reviewer(s): TBD

Student Book(s) Reviewed: Your Inner Fish by Neil Shubin

Additional Readings: TBD

Class 4, February 17: Pity the Local Fisherman

Guest Speaker: Sean Barrett, Dock To Dish

Student Interviewer: TBD

Student Book Reviewer(s): TBD

Student Books Reviewed: Fishing, A History by Brian Fagin

Additional Readings: TBD

Class 5, February 24: How Fisheries Science Works (or doesn’t work)

NOTE Paul Greenberg will be absent this class. Professor Jennifer Jacquet will run this session

Student Interviewer: TBD

Student Book Reviewer(s): TBD

Student Book(s) Reviewed: Billion-Dollar Fish by Kevin M. Bailey

Additional Readings: TBD
Class 6, March 3: Marine Protected Areas, Climate Change and the Antarctic

Guest Speakers: John Weller and Cassandra Brooks

Student Interviewer: TBD

Student Book Reviewer(s): TBD

Student Book(s) Reviewed: The Curious Life of Krill by Stephen Nicoll
Death and Life of Monterey Bay by Stephen Palumbi

Additional Readings: TBD

Class 7, March 10: Farmed Salmon—a debate

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER SESSION:
In this session you, the students will interview two guests
1. The anti-salmon farming activist Don Staniford
2. Pro salmon farming spokesperson Martin Jaffa

You the students will be responsible for running the press conference and from this exchange you will write your mid-term opinion essay

Student Book Reviewer(s): TBD

Student Book(s) Reviewed: An Entirely Synthetic Fish, Anders Halverson

Additional Readings: TBD

March 17: SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

Class 8, March 24: Do Fish Feel Pain?

Guest Speaker: Jonathan Balcombe

Student Interviewer: TBD

Student Book Reviewer(s): TBD

Student Book(s) Reviewed: Other Minds by Peter Godfrey Smith

Additional Readings: TBD
Class 9, March 31: The High Seas—Tuna and Sharks, Pirates and Slaves

Guest Speaker: Shana Miller

Student Interviewer: TBD

Student Book Reviewer(s): TBD

Student Book(s) Reviewed: The Outlaw Ocean by Ian Urbina

Additional Readings: TBD

Class 10, April 7: The Oyster Question

FIELD TRIP TO THE BILLION OYSTER PROJECT ON GOVERNOR’S ISLAND
CLASS WILL MEET AT THE GOVERNOR’S ISLAND FERRY TERMINAL
BOOK REVIEW WILL BE DONE WITHOUT POWERPOINT DURING THE FERRY RIDE

Student Interviewer: TBD

Student Book Reviewer(s): TBD

Student Book(s) Reviewed: Thicker Than Water by Erica Cirino

Additional Readings: TBD

Class 11, April 14: FINAL PROJECT PITCHING

PITCH SESSION: YOU WILL BE PITCHING YOUR FINAL PAPERS AS IF YOU ARE PITCHING THEM TO A MAGAZINE. WE WILL HAVE GUEST TBD FROM A PROFESSIONAL NEWSPAPER/MAGAZINE

Student Books Reviewed: N/A

Additional Readings: TBD
Class 12, April 21: Whales in Captivity

Guest Speaker: Lori Marino

Student Interviewer: TBD

Student Book Reviewer(s): TBD

Student Book(s) Reviewed: War of the Whales by Joshua Horwitz

Additional Readings: TBD

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Class 13, April 28:

FIELD TRIP TO THE FISH WAY ON THE BRONX RIVER AT THE BRONX ZOO LED BY JOHN WALDMAN

BOOK REVIEW WILL BE DONE WITHOUT POWERPOINT DURING THE RIDE

Guest Speaker: JOHN WALDMAN
Student Interviewer: TBD

Student Book Reviewer(s): TBD

Student Books Reviewed: Alewife by Douglass Watts

Additional Readings: TBD

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Class 14, May 5:

FINAL CLASS – STUDENT FINAL PROJECT PRESENTATIONS MODERATED BY GUEST DAVID JACOBS OF ADVANCE DIGITAL

FINAL PAPERS DUE

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