

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2191G (001)
Arts for a Damaged Planet
Winter 2025**Instructor:** Joshua Schuster**Prerequisites:** At least 60% in any 1000-level or above “E” or combination of two 1000-level or above “F/G” courses from any department in the faculties of Arts and Humanities, Information and Media Studies (FIMS), or Music, or from the Department of Anthropology, the Department of History, the Department of Political Science, or permission of the Department.Course Description

Global heating, species depletion, non-renewable resource dependency, sustainable energies – solutions to these pressing issues will require not just advances in science, new economic policies, and political will. Resolving each of these also will require changes in vision, new stories, and new ways of imagining the present and the future. The arts help us to document and understand the damaged planet we live on, and contribute to transitioning to a future earth we aspire to see. This class introduces students to a wide range of arts for a damaged planet. We will study works of fiction, non-fiction, graphic novels, film, and photography that helps to make legible our current planetary condition. This is also a kind of “maker class,” in that we will have short hands-on assignments, creative proposals, and experiential learning practices that involve ourselves in thinking and connecting to our environs in new ways. Our overall goal in this class is to use the arts to develop new ideas and tools to repair the damaged planet.

Course Materials**Likely Course Texts:**

Kim Stanley Robinson, *The Ministry for the Future*
William Shakespeare, *The Tempest*
Simon Orpana, *Gasoline Dreams*
Hayette Mullen, *Urban Tumbleweed*
Film: *WALL-E*

Methods of Evaluation

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Class Participation | 15% |
| Podcast Project | 10% |
| Creative Project | 15% |
| Essay (1200 words) | 20% |
| Final Exam | 40% |