ES 193: Hope That Works
Draft syllabus for Spring 2018
(2 units)

Friday, 1-3 p.m.

Bren Hall 4016

“Come to presence. Be mindful. Then work. Work. That’s it. That’s the core – the ways we can illuminate our opportunities for that.”

■ Marc McGinnes

“The hour is late...” [check here for the time]

■ John Foran

Description

This seminar explores principles and practices concerning the place of hope—hope that works—in facing daunting environmental challenges and circumstances without becoming numb, falling into despair and/or going crazy. Lively discussions centered primarily on readings in Active Hope (Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone, 2012), other assigned readings, a collaborative creative project on Eco Vista, and individual ecopsychological self-reflection.

Facilitators

Marc McGinnes, J.D.
Senior Senate Lecturer Emeritus
4015 Bren Hall
Readings

There is one book for this course:

Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone, *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We’re In without Going Crazy* (Novato, CA: New World Library, 2012). Get it at the UCEN Bookstore or over Amazon ASAP!

All other readings will be available on our class GauchoSpace.

Evaluation and grading

Attendance is of vital importance to team effort, so this is a fundamental consideration;
Participation is of vital importance to team effort, so it too is a fundamental consideration. Each of us has the opportunity to participate in her/his own ways, and each is expected to do his/her share of the work.

Assignments

There are no written exams. Instead, you are asked to post a comment or question for the week’s presenters on GauchoSpace before each class (let’s say by 9 a.m. on Friday mornings), and to engage yourself fully in these two assignments:

Book review essay

You are asked to post an essay on Active Hope on GauchoSpace by midnight on Thursday, May 24, of no more than about 600 words. Do not use your space to summarize the book. Beyond that, we have no set expectation for this review, other than to see you engage with the book, whether analytically and/or emotionally. Be sure to tell us the reasons for your views, and back them up with evidence, quotations, and reference to specific page numbers.

Team project

There is one group project, and that is to make a video in a group of five classmates on the theme of Hope that Works in Eco Vista. We will learn what Eco Vista is in week 2 and discuss how we want to do these projects together.

Schedule of seminar sessions

Friday, April 6: The Varieties of Hope: Introductions and Discussion
Readings:


Wen Stephenson, “Preface” to What We Are Fighting for Now is Each Other: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Climate Justice (Boston: Beacon Press, 2015).


Friday, April 13: The Eco Vista Project: Hope in Our Backyard

With UCSB graduate Jessica Alvarez, Public Professor of Art Kim Yasuda, and Michaela Ravasio, yoga teacher and social justice activist. Kim Yasuda’s students will join us for part of this meeting.

Readings:

Active Hope, 1-41.

Websites:

Eco Vista:

Transition United States – http://www.transitionus.org/about-us

Common Transition Primer website: https://primer.commonstransition.org/
Global Ecovillage Network –

Friday, April 20: How the Environmental Humanities do Hope amidst the Crisis

Guest presenters/participants Summer Gray, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies and film-maker, and Ken Hiltner, Professor of English and Director, Environmental Humanities Initiative.

Readings:

*Active Hope*, 43-81.

Friday, April 27: Hope and the Environmental Justice Scholar-Activist

Guest presenters/participants David Pellow, Professor of Environmental Studies, engaged in teaching and research on topics in the field environmental justice, and Grace Chang, Professor of Feminist Studies.

Readings:

*Active Hope*, 85-137.

Friday, May 4: Communicating and Practicing Climate Justice Hope

Guest presenters/participants Celia Alario, environmental communications strategist and educator, instructor of Environmental Studies and Bren School courses, and Julie Maldonado, Lecture in Environmental Studies.

Readings:

*Active Hope*, 139-184.

Center for Story-Based Strategy, “Story-Based Strategy 101”

Winning Wages Media Kit, “Framing the News”

Joanna Levitt and Jess Rimington, “Creating Breakout Innovation”

Friday, May 11. Bringing Hope to the Community through Local Activism

Guest presenters/participants Cameron Gray from Community Environmental Center, and another speaker from CAUSE [Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy].

Readings:

TBA

Friday, May 18: What Underlies Lies Hope: The Global Utopian Desire
Guest presenter/participant Nick Buxton, author, communications consultant, and member of the Transnational Institute.

**Readings:**

*Active Hope*, 185-238.


**Friday, May 25: Radical Hope**

John Foran, “Radical Hope in the Mo(ve)ment.” UCSB’s student-activists: Emily Williams, Michelle Sevilla, Mariah Brennan Clegg.

Assignment: essay on *Active Hope* due.

**Readings:**

John Foran, “Finding Pathways to a Better Future” (December 16, 2017),
http://www.radicalecologicaldemocracy.org/finding-pathways-to-a-better-future/

World People’s Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth “Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mother Earth,” Cochabamba, Bolivia (April 27, 2010), 1-3,
http://climateandcapitalism.com/?p=2268

Yeb Saño, “It’s time to stop this madness” – Philippines plea at UN climate talks (November 11, 2013),

Friday, June 1: Hope and Other Emotions of Justice

Sarah Ray, Assistant Professor and Director of Environmental Studies, Humboldt State University.

Readings:

TBA

Friday, June 8: Farewell to Hope?

Final thoughts, screening of Eco Vista projects, farewells.