St. John’s University English Department

Summer 2020 Graduate Course Flyer

**Summer Session 1: June 1 – July 2, 2020**

E 790: Drama and Society: Staging the Coming Storm (31296)

Dr. Steve Mentz

Email: mentzs@stjohns.edu

Performance: *The Tempest*, Shakespeare on the Sound, Rowaytan CT (June 18 – July 5)

How can art and literature respond to ecological catastrophe? This course takes as our case study a new outdoor production of Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*, which we will put in dialogue with eco-theory, environmentalist activism, ideas about local art practices, and a series of Field Seminars to the polluted waterways of New York City, the rehearsal room of Shakespeare on the Sound’s production of *The Tempest*, and perhaps, if we can work out the logistics, a canoe trip on Newtown Creek. Literary readings beyond Shakespeare will include modern responses to *The Tempest* by Aime Cesaire, Rachel Ingalls, Kamau Brathwaite, and others. Readings in eco-theory will include Kathryn Yussof’s *A Billion Black Anthropocenes or None*, Lewis and Maslin’s *The Human Planet*, and Steve Mentz’s *Break Up the Anthropocene*. Readings in public environmental activism will include local New York writers such as Mary Heglar and Genevieve Guenther as well as global figures such as Bill McKibben and Sheila Watt-Cloutier. One of our projects will be to learn the language of Land Acknowledgments and consider how Indigenous knowledges can support current thinking about our environment.



**Summer Session II: July 6 – Aug 6**

ENG. 100: Introduction to Modern Critical Theory (30844)
Questions of Relevance
ONLINE

Dr. Melissa Mowry

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This class will focus on the centrality of cultural and literary criticism in the West to the project of deconstructing authoritarianisms in the post-war era.  We will begin with Michel Foucault’s *Discipline and Punish*, include some Derrida. From there we will move on to engage with a variety of post-colonial interventions, radical democratic politics, the interventions of critical race theory, as well as current work on rethinking the possibilities of collectivity beyond the social.  This class is fully on-line.  There will be bi-weekly, graded discussions on the material as well as a final 15-page paper on a mutually agreed-upon topic.