ESF Course Proposal Form
Committee on Instruction - ESF Faculty Governance
Office of Instruction & Graduate Studies

Date: February 14, 2013
Course Number: EWP 350
Course Title: Eco-Cinema: Perspectives & Practices (Honors)

X New Course OR
☐ Changes in existing course (check all that apply):

☐ Prefix
☐ Number
☐ Credits
☐ Title
☐ Description
☐ Pre-requisite(s)
☐ Co-requisite(s)
☐ Shared Resources
☐ Course Format
☐ Content
☐ Semester Offered

For new courses only, indicate if you would like approval as a course meeting the General Education standards in the following knowledge and skills area (check all that apply):

☐ American History
☐ Humanities
☐ Other World Civilizations
☐ The Arts
☐ Mathematics
☐ Social Sciences
☐ Basic Communication
☐ Natural Sciences
☐ Western Civilization

X Other World Civilizations

If changing an existing course, describe the change(s):
___________________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________________

List any pre- or co-requisites here: Pre-requisites: EWP 190 (Writing & the Environment) and EWP 290 (Research Writing & Humanities) or Equivalents

Institutional Impact:

Anticipated Enrollment: 16 per semester

Technology and Classroom Resource Demands: DVD Player & Screen
Computing Resources: N/A
Library Resources: Will order films to be available on reserve at the Library.
Transportation Requirements: N/A
Forest Properties or Field Practicum Facilities Required: N/A

Proposer Contact Information:
Name: Benette Whitmore
Department: Environmental Studies, The Writing Program
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Chair/Coordinator Signature: ____________________________________________________________
Health and Safety Considerations:

Conditions or situations present in association with the course?

1. **Will substances with any of the following properties be used during instruction?** flammability, toxicity, corrosivity, reactivity, registered pesticide, legally controlled, or other characteristics with the potential to cause harm or injury?  
   - NO

2. **Will any physical hazards be present during instruction?** (e.g., machines that need safety guards; razor blades or syringes; compressed gases, etc.).  
   - NO

3. **Will any biological hazards be present during instruction?** (e.g., handling animals (rabies or hantavirus); cultures or stocks of infectious agents (fungal spores, viruses, bacteria, etc.).  
   - NO

4. **Will any radiation hazards be present during instruction?** (e.g., radioisotopes, X-rays, ultraviolet rays, lasers, etc.).  
   - NO

5. **Will any electrical equipment that, due to its design, location, or method of use, pose any threat to safety during instruction?** (Give considerable thought to electrical use outdoors, or any potentially wet location.).  
   - NO

6. **Will there be any personal safety issues related to the class?** (e.g., due to time of day or location, at the end of any organized class exercise, will students be in danger of physical assault, etc.).  
   - YES

7. **Will any students be driving official state or research sponsored land or water vehicles during any class or instructional exercise?**  
   - NO

8. **Will any type of personal protective equipment be necessary during class exercises?** (e.g., hard-hats, eye/face protection, hearing protection, hand/foot protection, lab coat, visibility clothing, etc.)  
   - NO

If the answer was “Yes” to any of the HEALTH AND SAFETY questions, please explain:

The lecture/discussion and film screenings may conclude in the later evening near 9pm. Blue light phones are available on campus and safety escorts are available to students.

*A detailed course description must accompany the Course Proposal Form*
DETAILED COURSE DESCRIPTION

COURSE: EWP 350 - Eco-Cinema: Perspectives and Practices (Honors)
3 Credit Hours – Spring Semester
3 Hours Lecture & Discussion Per Week
2 Hours Film Screening Per Week (non credit bearing/not instructional; comparable to readings outside of class)
Prerequisite(s): EWP 190 (Writing & the Environment) and EWP 290 (Research Writing & Humanities) or equivalent(s); Enrollment in Honors Program

SCOPE:
1. Level of Instruction:
   a. EWP 350 is an upper-division undergraduate course for Honors students.
2. Relation to Curriculum or to other ESF or Syracuse University courses:
   a. EWP 350 is an upper-division Honors course that requires successful completion of EWP 190 (Writing for Environmental Professionals) and EWP 290 (Research Writing & Humanities) or their equivalent(s).
   b. Shared Resource Requirements: None

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After completing the course, the student should be able to:
1. Describe how environmental films use imagery, text, and sound that convey perspectives on environmental issues.
2. Analyze environmental films from a rhetorical perspective by considering audience, context, and purpose.
3. Formulate questions, concepts, and theories related to environmental films and their explicit and implicit messages.
4. Demonstrate the ability to interpret environmental films from cultural, political, and philosophical viewpoints, and to understand the significance of various interpretations.
5. Produce a short film or slide show with an environmental theme.

MAJOR CONCEPT OR METHODOLOGIES:

This course is designed for Honors students who have successfully completed the first- and second-level composition courses or their equivalent. The course includes three hours weekly of lecture and discussion of films. Students view course films during a weekly two-hour screening time outside the regular class time and prior to the session where the film will be discussed. The screening time is not credit bearing because no direct instruction takes place at that time.

The core concept of the course involves an understanding of environmental films from cultural, historical, and political perspectives. The course uses a rhetorical approach for understanding environmental films by analyzing audience, context, and purpose. It requires students to apply critical thinking skills as they construct arguments related to themes and topics presented in
environmental films. Students produce a short film or slide show based on knowledge gained
from the course. The emphasis on understanding the creative process and producing a film
qualify it as fulfilling SUNY’s general education requirement for The Arts.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

**EWP 350. Eco-Cinema: Perspectives and Practices (Honors) (3)**

Three hours of lecture/discussion and two-hour film screening each week. Environmental films
are interpreted from cultural, historical, and political perspectives. The artistic process in
filmmaking is emphasized. Students produce a short film or slide show with an environmental
theme. Spring.

Prerequisites: EWP 190 and EWP 290 or Equivalent; Enrollment in Honors Program

**COURSE HISTORY:**

This is a new course derived from a special topics class offered in spring, 2013.