

**[English 211]**  
**[Section M18]**  
**[The Rhetoric of Going Green]**

**Meeting Time and Location:** T/Th, 1:10 – 2:25 pm; 233 Speech Building

**Instructor:** Meg McGuire

**Office:** F3 Milton Hall (Graduate Teaching Complex)

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**[Required Texts]**

- *Rhetorical Visions: Reading and Writing in a Visual Culture*, Wendy S. Heresford and Brenda Jo Brueggemann
- *Writing Matters Online* ([mhenglishconnect.com](http://mhenglishconnect.com))
- *Farewell My Subaru*, Doug Fine
- *Green*, Brooke Rollins and Lee Bauknight, eds.  
Additional readings provided on Blackboard

**[Course Description]**

This class will help you practice and interpret texts, as well as research, evaluate, construct and write arguments. In other words, you will learn to be critical, both as a writer and a reader. By being able to analyze arguments that you both read and craft, you will be able to better enter various conversations that will happen in your field of study.

For this particular class, we will be analyzing texts, artifacts, practices and arguments, as well as creating arguments about the current trend of being environmentally friendly. We will look at all sides of “going green” in various ways, including books, articles, websites, and overall environmental practices (recycling, reducing waste, going off the grid, growing your own food, etc.). This is not a class about becoming a “treehugger,” or persuading people to be more environmentally conscious, this is about really looking at the various arguments behind this issue. You don’t have even have to care about being environmentally friendly. You do, however, have to be open and respectful to other people’s ideas.

**[Course Objectives]**

By the end of the semester you should be able to:

- Analyze and evaluate cultural artifacts such as texts, images, and practices
- Construct a rhetorical argument with evidence appropriate for an explicit audience and purpose
- Use writing to persuade, inform, or engage while considering situation, audience, purpose, aesthetics, and adverse points of view
- Practice effective research strategies, and integrate research correctly and ethically from credible sources
- Understand and apply components of the writing process such as planning, collaborating, organizing, composing, revising, and editing

Additionally, the state of New Mexico objectives are:

- Analyze and evaluate oral and written communication in terms of situation, audience, purpose, aesthetics, and adverse points of view.
- Express a primary purpose in a compelling statement and order supporting points logically and convincingly.

- Use effective rhetorical strategies to persuade, inform, and engage.
- Employ writing and/or speaking processes such as planning, collaborating, organizing, composing, revising, and editing to create presentations using correct diction, syntax, grammar, and mechanics.
- Integrate research correctly and ethically from credible sources to support the primary purpose of communication.
- Engage in reasoned civic discourse while recognizing the distinctions among opinions, facts, and inferences.

## [Course Policies]

### **Attendance:**

Students are expected to regularly attend all classes for which they are registered. Students making satisfactory progress in their classes will be excused from classes when they are representing NMSU on a university sponsored event (e.g. ASNMSU president representing NMSU at legislative session, student athletes competing in NMSU scheduled athletic events, or students attending educational field trips and conferences). Authorized absences do not relieve the student of their class responsibilities. Prior written notice of the authorized absence will be provided to the instructor by the sponsoring department.

- 2 or fewer absences: 10 points = A for 10% of final grade
- 3 absences: 8 points = B- for 10% of final grade
- 4 absences: 7 points = C- for 10% of final grade
- 5 absences: 6 points = D- for 10% of final grade
- 6 absences: 5 points = F for 10% of final grade
- 7 or more absences = F for class

### **Tardiness:**

Coming to class late is disrespectful to those of us who showed up on time and disrupts the class while it is already in session. Each tardy counts as a half an absence. Please know that these can add up.

### **Participation:**

Participation is a key component to this class. This class will be a balance of discussion and activities. It is important to practice discussion with others, bouncing ideas off each other, etc. Sometimes your classmates/workmates can provide excellent ideas and/or solutions or just another perspective to your project, as well as identify potential problems or weaknesses. As much as others can help you, it is important to help someone else as well.

**A Participation** – has thoroughly done the reading and is prepared to discuss in class. Contributes to the conversation in every class period.

**B Participation** – has thoroughly done the reading and is prepared to discuss in class. Contributes to the conversation in almost every class period.

**C Participation** – has glanced at the reading, is not very prepared to discuss in class. Contributes to conversations occasionally.

**D Participation** – has not done the reading. Contributes to conversations a few times in a semester

**F Participation** – has not done the reading. Never contributes to conversations.

### **Late Work:**

I do not accept late work. Assignments should be turned in on the date they are due. However, I do realize that life happens and that sometimes gets in the way of assignments. If this does happen, please let me know BEFORE the due date and we can work something out.

### **Revision:**

You have the option to revise the Persuasive Hypertext Poem assignment for one grade higher. However, this is not a guarantee that you will receive a better grade on the revision. You will have one week from the day I return it to you to turn in your revision.

**Technology:**

Because we will be discussing environmental issues such as conservation, I ask that all your assignments be emailed to me to through Blackboard (this way we can save a few trees and ink). You will have until 5 pm of the due date to email me these assignments. Assignments must be turned in as a .doc file. These files are 1997-2004 Word documents, which is a common file format that everyone can open. I will NOT accept files as .docx. (If you are unsure how to save your files this way, Google it.) You will also need to include your last name and assignment name in the file name. For example, if I were turn in a research analysis, my assignment file name would look like this:

mcguire\_researchanalysis.doc

Any other file name will not be accepted and you may be marked down for turning in late work.

**Cell Phones/Texting:**

We meet for 75 minutes, twice a week. That is a short enough amount of time to not need to text or call anyone. If I find you using your cell phones in class, I will ask you to leave and you will be counted as absent. If you, for some reason, are expecting an emergency phone call, please let me know ahead of time.

**[Assignments and Grade Breakdown]**

Attendance: 10%

Participation: 25%

Reading Responses: 10%

Persuasive Hypertext Poem: 20%

Research Analysis: 35%

**[Students With Disabilities]**

Qualified students with disabilities are to be provided with reasonable accommodations in accessing buildings, programs, and services. Students are encouraged to contact Services for Students with Disabilities for academic-related services, and may refer to the Campus Directory for resource information, telephone numbers, and Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) locations. Disability-based discrimination grievances may be filed according to the procedures set forth in section 4.05.10 of the New Mexico State University Policy Manual (dated March 22, 2002).

**[Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty]**

Plagiarism can be defined as using another person's work without acknowledgement; making it appear to be one's own work. Plagiarism, whether intentional or unintentional, is unacceptable in this class. Plagiarizing in this class will result in failing the class immediately. Consult the NMSU student Code of Conduct (<http://www.nmsu.edu/~vpsa/SCOC/misconduct.html>) regarding your responsibilities and rights concerning plagiarism and academic dishonesty.