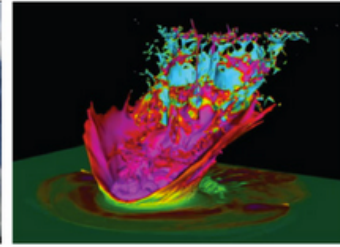
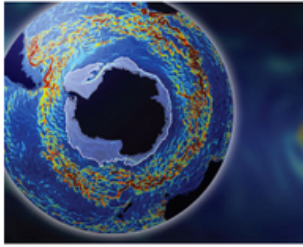


In Extinction's Embrace: Geological Perspectives on Contemporary Nonfiction regarding Climate Change



GY100 / Professor: **Christine Siddoway** / **Class begins at 9:15 and concludes at 12:15 pm**, unless otherwise indicated.

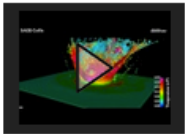
Week 1:

March 21 Course Intro: Geological standpoint on extinctions (e.g., the rock record) and geological circumstances that may, when compounded, cause mass dieoffs

1st Monday: "How to Understand the Best, Greatest, Biggest, Classiest Presidential Primary of All Time." Speaker: John Sides

March 22 Geology modules (Geology of Impacts; Western Interior Seaway; and Change of Fate for Ammonoids) ; Discussion of Chapters 1-4 of Kolbert

[Chicxulub animation](#) ↗



March 23 Geology modules (*Pandemics and THC*, *Ocean warming and malevolent CH4*), and Discussion of Chapters 4-7 of Kolbert

[THC](#) ↗



An evening Option from Campus Calendar: "The [Nuclear Cinema: A Mashup of Atomic-Era Films](#)", Cornerstone 131 (Screening Room), 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

March 24 Film screening: Life after People (Part 1) and discussion of reading, [Defining the Anthropocene](#) ↗ ↗, When Did the Human Epoch Begin? [Overview by MICHELLE NIJHUIS, in The New Yorker , and article by Lewis & Maslin, combined within a single pdf]

"[Atomic Landscapes](#)", IDEA Space exhibit, open hours 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

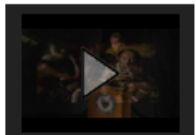
March 25 Discussion of Readings: a) Chapters 8 through end of Kolbert [and Accelerated modern human-induced species losses](#) ↗ ↗: Entering the sixth mass extinction, by Ceballos et al. 2015

March 26 weekend (excerpt) ↗ Reading assignment: P. Heller, *The Dog Stars* (entire book) and M. Atwood, *The Year of the Flood*

Spin-offs from March 24 topics: *It's not only taxonomic groups that are going extinct:*

[Sixth Sense: the Secrets of the Wave Pilots](#) ↗, by Kim Tingley for *NTY Magazine*

[Why Ancient Wisdom Matters in A Modern World](#) ↗



, by Wade Davis (1st Mondays lecture)

Week 2:

March 28 (Monday) [Geology Synthesis I](#) (hour exam), followed by Discussion of The Dog Stars, the post-apocalypse and inhabiting a future world

Dr. Lidya Tarhan, Yale University presents a talk at noon in Tutt Science Lecture Hall: "Global Sulfur Cycling in ancient Oceans : evidence from Bioturbation patterns in Early Paleozoic rocks". (optional)

March 29 (Tuesday) No class in morning; rather, READ: [Land transformation by humans](#): [A review](#), by Hooke et al. 2012, and [Earth Movements-Breakdown](#) in preparation for an afternoon field project

March 29 AFTERNOON FIELD TRIP, depart 1:30, field til 5:00 p.m., **class meal** at La Casita, and attendance at Evening event at Ivywild School: [The Science of Disaster Movies](#) 7 pm to 8:30 pm

The Day After Tomorrow, San Andreas, Mad Max, The Core - should we be worried about the end of the world? Find out with a geologist and biogeochemist who will explore the ways the Earth could wipe us out, and vice versa.

VAN transportation from/to CC

March 30: In-class project and analysis: Land transformation by humans in the Pikes Peak region (re: March 29 readings), putting our Place into context of [The Great Acceleration](#)

March 31: Geology SPIN session, topics & readings to be determined based on class interests

April 1: [Geology Synthesis II](#) (hour exam), followed by 1st Extinction's Embrace Symposium (student presentations)

April 2-3: Over weekend, [begin reading](#) This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate, by *Naomi Klein* book

REVIEWS of the book, and film trailer: 1/ [NYT](#)

2/ [New York Review of Books](#)

3/ [Film release](#)

Week 3:

April 5 Discussion of *This Changes Everything*, by N.Klein, and spin-off topics

April 6 ALL DAY FIELD TRIP to Denver (Lunch provided). Topics include: Western Interior Seaway, Geological Time Scale, and paleoenvironments of Ancient Denvers. Trip includes visit to Museum of Nature and Science.

April 7 Dialog and synthesis about Colorado paleoenvironments (field trip followup), and Continued discussion of *This Changes Everything*, by N.Klein. Spin-off topics, as appropriate.

April 8 Individual and collective Agency: equipping ourselves to understand and engage in constructive dialog and action, in response to global change. TED talk, in class: [The 9 Limits of Planet Earth](#), by A. Rockström. [Sustainable Earth viewpoint](#), a prior TED talk by Rockstrom.

April 9 2nd Extinction's Embrace Symposium (student presentations)

Week 4:

April 12 – 13 [Monday – Tuesday overnight trip: Traces of lost populations: Picketwire Canyon](#) (a part of the final project)

April 14: Final projects due: Embrace Extinction / the Opportunities it Provides

Block 8 events:

April 21, Elizabeth Kolbert presents Linnemann Lecture on the Environment

(1st Thursday of Block 8), 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Celeste Theatre in Cornerstone Arts Center

BOOKS and Reading for the course:

Kolbert, Elizabeth, *The Sixth Extinction: an unnatural history*, ISBN-13: 978-1250062185

Heller, Peter, *the Dog Stars*, **ISBN-13:** 978-0307950475

Klein, Naomi, *This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. The Climate*, **ISBN-13:** 978-1451697391

and: [pdfs linked](#) within Syllabus