

Syllabus: ENR 4193, Section 36781, and ENR 6193, Section 32444 1-credit Environmental Film Series courses

Fall Semester, 2017. Six consecutive Monday evenings starting October 16, 2017, through November 20, 2017, starting at 7:00 PM and ending at approximate times indicated below. With lively discussions by leading OSU and outside experts after each film screening, for app. 30 minutes. Free pizzas/beverages at 6:45 PM at each event. Map/directions: [Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and Chemistry \(CBEC\) Building, Room 130](#). The Tuttle Park Place garage, linked via the CBEC link, is a six-minute walk to CBEC.

Students registered in ENR 4193, Section 36781, and ENR 6193, Section 32444 must attend all six Tuesday evening events, both film screening and discussion afterwards. **There will be a sign-in sheet at the CBEC 130 entrance which must be signed each week.** Attendance for one, and only one, event can be waived upon emailing the instructor details for a valid excuse. Any other/additional absences, even with a valid excuse, will need to be “made up” with an alternate assignment in order to receive a “Satisfactory” grade for the course. Also, for **any five of the six events**, each student must write and turn in an original essay of 500 to 600 words. These essays must apply ideas and information in the film and/or arising in the discussion afterwards to some “real life” situation, matter, or place with which the student has some familiarity, anywhere in the world. Essays must be submitted to the course Carmen drop box by midnight Thursday of the week after each event.

Instructor: David Hanselmann <http://senr.osu.edu/our-people/david-hanselmann>
Lecturer and Environmental Professionals Network Coordinator
School of Environment and Natural Resources, 469 Kottman Hall
hanselmann.3@osu.edu 614 247 1908

Film information and summaries below

October 16 CBEC Room 130, 7:00 to 9:15 PM

An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power, 2017, 100 minutes

https://www.facebook.com/pg/AnInconvenientTruth/about/?ref=page_internal

<https://inconvenientsequel.tumblr.com/>

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=huX1bmfdkyA>

Film Synopsis

A decade after *An Inconvenient Truth* brought the climate crisis into the heart of popular culture, comes the riveting and rousing follow-up that shows just how close we are to a real energy revolution. Former Vice President Al Gore continues his tireless fight, traveling around the world training an army of climate champions and influencing international climate policy. Cameras follow him behind the scenes – in moments both private and public, funny and poignant -- as he pursues the inspirational idea that while the stakes have never been higher, the perils of climate change can be overcome with human ingenuity and passion.

Discussion Leaders

Heather Taylor-Miesle, Executive Director, Ohio Environmental Council

<http://www.theoec.org/contact/heather-taylor-miesle> and Peter Curtis, Professor of Ecology,

OSU Dept. of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology <https://eeob.osu.edu/people/curtis.7>

October 23 CBEC Room 130, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

The Messenger – Imagine a World Without Birdsong, 2015, 90 minutes

<http://songbirdsos.com/about/messenger/>

Trailer: <http://songbirdsos.com/>

Film Synopsis

In ancient times humans looked to the flights and songs of birds to foretell the future.

Today once again the birds have something to tell us.

Su Rynard's wide-ranging and contemplative documentary, *The Messenger*, explores our deep-seated connection to birds and warns that the uncertain fate of songbirds might mirror our own.

Moving from the northern reaches of the Boreal Forest to the base of Mount Ararat in Turkey to the streets of New York, *The Messenger* brings us face-to-face with a remarkable variety of human-made perils that have devastated thrushes, warblers, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks and many other airborne music-makers. On one level, *The Messenger*, is an engaging, visually stunning, emotional journey, one that mixes its elegiac message with hopeful notes and unique glances into the influence of songbirds on our own expressions of the soul. On another level, *The Messenger* is the artful story about the mass depletion of songbirds on multiple continents, and about those who are working to turn the tide.

Discussion Leaders

Dawn Tabata, Executive Director, Grange Insurance Audubon Center

<http://grange.audubon.org/> <https://www.linkedin.com/in/dawn-tabata-06033b7/>

Chris Tonra, OSU SENR Assistant Professor of Avian Wildlife Ecology

<https://senr.osu.edu/our-people/christopher-m-tonra>

October 30 CBEC Room 130, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

Chasing Coral, 2017, 82 minutes

Link and trailer: <https://www.chasingcoral.com/>

NYT review https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/07/movies/chasing-coral-netflix-climate-change.html?_r=0

Film Synopsis

“From the makers of *Chasing Ice* comes the remarkable adventure of one team capturing our changing oceans. Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. A team of divers, photographers and scientists set out on a thrilling ocean adventure to discover why and to reveal the underwater mystery to the world. Coral reefs around the world are vanishing at an unprecedented rate. *Chasing Coral* was directed by Jeff Orlowski and Produced by Larissa Rhodes. The film took more than three years to shoot, and is the result of 650 + hours underwater, submissions of footage from volunteers from 30 countries, as well as support from more than 500 people from various locations around the world. It took a village to make this film, and we are so grateful for all of the support from our filmmaking team, our Executive and Associate Producers, amazing partners, and the hundreds of people that came together to make this possible.”

Chasing Coral will be launching an ambitious impact campaign later in 2017. #makewaves

Discussion Leaders

Mike Brittsan, Director of Aquatic Sciences, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and co-founder/board chair, SCORE International <http://www.score.org/site/home.html>

Andrea Grottoli, PhD, Professor (coral/reefs studies), OSU School of Earth Sciences

<https://earthsciences.osu.edu/people/grottoli.1>

November 6 CBEC Room 130, 7:00 to 8:35 PM

The Penguin Counters, 2017, 67 minutes

<https://www.penguincountersmovie.com/>

Trailer: 3:45 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LW4TQjhmUU>

Trailer: 2:04 <http://www.msn.com/en-us/lifestyle/whats-hot/the-penguin-counters-trailer/vp-BBA0rhF>

NYT Review: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/20/movies/the-penguin-counters-review.html>

Film Synopsis

Famed as a place that ‘wants you dead,’ Ron Naveen and his ragtag team of field-biologists embark on a journey to some of the harshest corners of the planet, where they track the impact of climate change and ocean health on penguin populations - one nest at a time. But penguins aren’t the only stars. During the fifteen-day voyage to the rookeries, Ron discovers that the ashes of Ernest Shackleton’s best friend and colleague - Frank Wild - are on board his ship, along with descendants of both the Wild and Shackleton. What’s unique about this film is the verité style of filmmaking on a scientific quest in the Antarctic, skillfully embedding an important environmental message with a good yarn. Permits allowed access to remote penguin colonies – in all their chaos and splendor.

Discussion Leaders

Becky Ellsworth, Curator, Shores Department, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and Melisa Diaz, OSU Byrd Polar and Climate Research Center Antarctic researcher <https://bpcrc.osu.edu/>

November 13 CBEC Room 130, 7:00 to 8:35 PM

Sonic Sea, 2016, 60 minutes

<http://sonicsea.org/>

Trailer: <https://www.google.com/search?q=sonis+sea+trailer&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8>

Film Synopsis

Take a stand against ocean noise. *Sonic Sea* is about understanding and protecting the vast symphony of life in our waters. We can reduce the impacts of ocean noise if we take action now. Executive Summary, 15-page *Sonic Sea – Impacts of Noise on Marine Mammals*, Natural Resources Defense Council and International Fund for Animal Welfare.

<http://www.ifaw.org/united-states>

http://www.sonicsea.org/sites/default/files/IFAW_OceanNoiseReport_WEB_spreads.pdf

“Marine life exists in a world dominated by sound. From pistol shrimp to blue whales, marine species use sound to find prey and communicate, sometimes over distances of hundreds of miles or more. But over the last 100 years or so, increasing levels of anthropogenic noise from shipping, oil and gas exploration, naval sonar training, construction, and other activities have begun to drown out the ocean’s natural sound. For whales, dolphins, and other marine life, this has resulted in a myriad of impacts, including stress, deafness, avoidance behaviors that have diminished feeding opportunities, and even death. Fortunately, in many cases, relatively simple solutions exist to mitigate these problems; what is needed is the political will.”

Discussion Leaders

Patrick Ramage, Program Director, Marine Conservation, Whale Program Director, International Fund for Animal Welfare

<http://www.ifaw.org/united-states/about-us/conservation/patrick-ramage>

Rick Livingston, PhD, Interim Director, Humanities Institute, Senior Lecturer in Comparative Studies, OSU <https://huminst.osu.edu/people/livingston.28>

November 20 CBEC Room 130, 7:00 to 9:00 PM

From the Ashes, 2017, 82 minutes

Link and trailers: <https://www.fromtheashesfilm.com/>

BusinessWire article/review: <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170413005757/en/>

Film Synopsis

“*From the Ashes* is an important documentary that underscores one of the most dominant and controversial industries in the history of the United States,” said National Geographic Global Networks’ Courtney Monroe. “The film explores the reality of coal’s role in climate change while offering insight into solutions that could help revive the struggling economies of dying mining towns and still safeguard the environment. We are thrilled to partner with RadicalMedia and Bloomberg Philanthropies to amplify the complex conversation about the coal industry as well as alternative forms of energy. For over a century, mining and energy companies have been privatizing coal’s profits while socializing its costs. Coal plant pollution kills 7,500 Americans a year and causes many more serious illnesses,” said Michael R. Bloomberg, founder of Bloomberg Philanthropies and co-author of the new book “Climate of Hope.” “**From the Ashes** shows the risks we face as a nation if we continue to rely on coal and examines how Americans in local communities, including in coal country, are helping to lead the transition toward cleaner air and stronger economies.”

Discussion Leaders

Tarunjit Butalia, PhD, Research Assoc. Prof, OSU Dept. of Civil, Environmental, and Geodetic

Engineering <https://ceg.osu.edu/people/butalia.1> and Tim Lohner, PhD, Consulting Environmental Specialist, American Electric Power (or AEP if space is tight)

<https://www.aep.com/environment/https://www.aep.com/environment/>