

415: Environmental Interventions - Homework 3

Due: Sept 18.

Goals:

- To explore the actual and potential relationship between technology and nature
- To continue preparing for short essay 1 (and therefore also for the final course project)

1. Starting discussions

Answers to these questions do not need to be in the form of polished writing. The goal is to get you thinking about the issues we'll be discussing in this course. Bring your answers in written form to class for discussion.

The readings for this week argue that technology plays a pivotal role in regimes to control and subdue the environment. Consider one of the Science articles from week 2 in the course.

1a. (1 paragraph) How is technology implicated (for good or for bad) in the environmental problems it raises? (You may repeat your response from Homework 1 if you choose.)

1b. (1 page) To what extent is it being used to control the environment, and to what extent is that attempt at control implicated in the environmental problem itself? (Note: you may choose the same article as in Homework 1, in which case

2. Annotated bibliography for Short Essay 1

Prior to doing this part of the homework, please be sure you have read the short essay assignment.

The goal of this part of your assignment is to help you develop the background research you'll need for your short essay. For this homework, you should develop an annotated bibliography of sources that you might potentially use for your short essay. An annotated bibliography is a list of works with a brief (short paragraph) description of what each work might have to tell you about your topic, like the following hypothetical entry for a paper on the flow of material goods in and out of homes:

“Ryan, John C. and Alan Thein Durning. *Stuff: The Secret Life of Everyday Things*. Seattle: Northwest Environment Watch, 1997.

This book is a tour through a typical person's day's life, tallying up where everything came from and how it was manufactured. It reveals the unexpected consequences of everyday consumption decisions, pulling the veil off of the secret world of commodities, and is somewhat depressing in its results. Factoid: the average American consumer consumes (indirectly) 120 pounds of resources every single day. Ouch! For my project, it suggests that it could be wise to narrow the focus from material goods to a specific

subset, such as food or even (depressingly) coffee in order to allow the specific detail pointed out by a book such as this through.”

Note: it is *not* necessary to fully read each book and essay in your bibliography; rather, you should skim them to get a sense of what each is about and to let you make wise choices about which to spend more focused reading time and energy on.

Start your bibliography with a *short* paragraph describing your topic. Then, you can simply list sources and the accompanying one-paragraph description. Your annotated bibliography should have at least 8 sources, of which at least 6 are not from readings assigned in class. At least 3 of the readings from outside of class should be books or essays in books from the library (as opposed to on-line sources). Each reference should include a proper citation in the scholarly format of your choice (e.g. MLA style: <http://www.english.uiuc.edu/cws/workshop/MLA/bibliographymla.htm>).

Remember your weekly post to the wiki is due Friday, Sept. 14 and your weekly comment is due by Tuesday before class. <https://confluence.cornell.edu/display/INFO415/General+Discussion>