# OPEN TO ALL MAJORS!



**Writing 340: Writing and the Environment\***

**Professor Michael Bunn / Spring 2020**

Section 65255D 12:30 – 1:50 Tuesday/Thursday

Environmental action routinely involves cultivating different writing skills appropriate to particular aims, contexts, and issues. Writing a persuasive letter or opinion column, designing an environmental advertisement, analyzing an environmental problem and proposing a solution, planning an awareness campaign or event: these are all forms of writing that intervene in the world in particular ways. This course emphasizes three related activities: (1) reading and analyzing well-crafted works of writing about the environment; (2) practicing writing by experimenting with different styles, techniques, genres, audiences, etc; and (3) reflecting on the relationship between the composing process and environmental action.

This course will encourage you to think about writing, prompt you to read good writing and, most importantly, ask you to write. Potential topics for discussion include varying conceptions of nature and wilderness, how to generate interest in longstanding and well-established problems, and specific environmental challenges confronting Los Angeles. Our discussions, readings, and writing assignments will explore ways in which writing can be a means to generate change. We will examine how writers make effective arguments with various kinds of evidence, and consider how rhetorical factors such as purpose and audience shape presentations of the environment in writing.

**Request for D-Clearance in Writing 340 for Writing and the Environment**

Please return this form via email to Professor Michael Bunn, Writing Program at [bunnm@usc.edu](mailto:bunnm@usc.edu)

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*Note*: *Transfer students should ensure that they have received credit for Writing 130/140/150 on their STARS report. If not, please bring a copy of your unofficial transcripts to JEF 150.*

**Please e-mail your completed form to bunnm@.usc.edu**

Name:

Student ID number:

Email Address:

Declared Major\*:

Declared Minor:

Class Standing:

Anticipated Graduation:

\*Due to the limited number of spaces for and interdisciplinary nature of this course, students will be selected from a range of majors to ensure the inclusion of various critical perspectives and disciplinary backgrounds within the class. While we will be discussing issues concerning the environment, students are not required to be environmental studies majors and only a select number of students from any one major will be admitted to help ensure the diversity of the class.

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In about three paragraphs, please: 1) describe yourself as a reader/writer; and 2) explain why a writing course focused on the environment appeals to you. (If there are any other reasons why you are particularly interested in taking this course feel free to share them here.)