ENGL/ENV M30 | Introduction to Environment & Cultures

Spring 2023 | Prof. Heise

# Student Questionnaire

1. Your name, preferred pronoun, and preferred email:

Tejas Kamtam, he/him, tejaskamtam@ucla.edu

1. Your discipline/major and year of study:  
     
   Computer Science, 2nd Year (Sophomore)
2. What do you hope to get out of this class? (Or, to put it differently: Are there particular learning goals you'd like to achieve by the end of the spring quarter?)  
     
   It’s been a while since I’ve had an English class, and they haven’t been the classes I look forward to. This is because the pieces they cover are rarely enjoyable to read or learn about. However, I think this class will change that. Environmental sustainability and maintenance have been heavily reinforced in my educational journey. Still, I don’t think I’ve ever considered the culture and literature enough to weigh the viewpoints on the core concepts argued in much of modern environmental literature. I want to take more interest in the field and the literature we discuss and try to consider the viewpoints, unlike the fleeting considerations I’ve given to the pieces in my previous classes.
3. What environmental issues are you most interested in?  
     
   I am interested in discussions relating to sustainable practices, specifically sustainable energy.
4. How would you define "nature"? Is nature similar to or different from "the environment"?  
     
   I think of nature as the Earthly, “untouched by humans” part of the overall “world.” Environment I usually perceive instead as the state of all interactions in a particular area, be that between people and nature, people and other people, or nature and nature, etc.
5. How do you practically engage with the natural world: hiking, birdwatching, activism, or anything else?

I’m fairly new to LA being out-of-state, but I’ve been able to see some of the biological interactions during hikes up the LA mountain range and casually paying attention to the differences in biospheres s compared to back in Texas. On that note, I’ve experienced the natural world back home on bike trails and walks through the countryside.

1. What kinds of texts, images, or films about the environment do you find most interesting?

I enjoy sci-fi because it gives me a sense of protection in feeling that we haven't gotten to the point of no return regarding how we interact with our environment.

1. Is there anything else you'd like us to know?