

## Experimental College

### Fall 2016 courses related to Environmental Studies

<http://excollege.tufts.edu/courses>

---

#### EXP-0022-GF Decoding Science

1-credit, Letter-graded

Mondays, 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Scientists spend years learning how to design, run, and analyze complex experiments that advance our understanding of diseases, climate change, or how the brain works. Ultimately, they need to communicate their findings to both the scientific community and the public at large.

Although this is one of their most important jobs, they often fail, leaving you—the non-scientist—in the dark.

How can you meet them halfway, learning how to read scientific papers to better understand the important studies that affect your life, environment, and health? The job of this course is to give you—and other non-scientists—the tools and techniques to breakdown complex science writing, deconstruct figures, and read with a critical eye. By using selected reading strategies and skillful Googling, you will not only be exposed to cutting edge science, but learn how to decode it for yourself.

**Laura Darnieder** has been involved in science education in several settings the greater Boston area, working closely with area college students as they undertake Organic Chemistry I and II, helping as a lab instructor in a joint Pathways to PhD program with UMass Boston and Tufts University, and assisting local IB Biology students at Josiah Quincy Upper School. She is currently a fourth year graduate student in the Neuroscience Department of the Sackler School of Graduate Biomedical Sciences at Tufts, and previously taught a course in the Experimental College on *Biased Bodies: The Exclusion of “the Female” in Science and Research*.

**Laura was selected by the Experimental College to be a Robyn Gittleman Graduate Teaching Fellow for 2016-2017.**



---

### EXP-0025-F Water at Risk: Flint and Beyond

1-credit, Letter-graded

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:30 pm

Here in the U.S., safe drinking water has always been a hallmark of our place in the world. Yet last year in Flint, Michigan, we saw an entire community's drinking water contaminated with lead. How did this happen? Does Flint represent an isolated incident, or could we soon face a future where safe drinking water can no longer be taken for granted in America?



This course will explore the tragedy of Flint, as well as other communities facing threats to their drinking water – from Toledo to Des Moines to Dimock, Pennsylvania – and will learn about a wide range of threats to drinking water sources in the U.S. The course will also examine how we interact with water locally – on the Tufts campus and the Mystic River watershed – as well as what we can learn from other nations' water practices. And critically, the class will consider solutions that are currently being explored here in the U.S. to help secure clean water for all.

**John Rumpler** (A'88) serves as the Clean Water Program Director and Senior Attorney for Environment America. He also mentors and trains recent college graduates enrolled in Environment America's Fellows Program. Throughout his career he has played a critical role in numerous initiatives to protect clean water across the country – including a multi-year campaign to protect drinking water sources for 117 million Americans. His passion for environmental issues began as a Tufts undergrad in the 1980s, where he was a student leader of MASSPIRG. Previously he taught a course about fracking for the ExCollege.

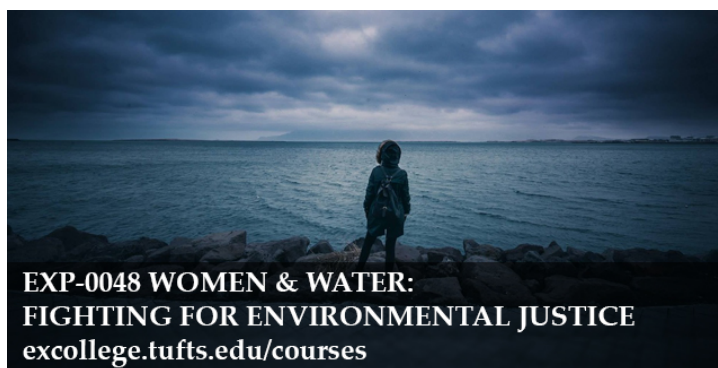
---

### EXP-0048-F Women and Water: Fighting for Environmental Justice

1-credit, Letter-graded

Tuesdays, 6:00 - 8:30 pm

When is the last time you really thought about what it means to have access to water? But just because water is essential, doesn't mean it's always valued. There are many stories of the fights to protect access and quality of drinking water, conserve wetlands and coastal areas, and understand and protect other living things that rely on water.



This course will explore environmental studies concepts through the lens of the role women have played in conservation and environmental justice with a focus on water.

**Lindsey Williams** worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with a focus on coastal management and science policy issues for over ten years. She then began an interdisciplinary PhD program in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies at the University of New Hampshire, where her current research interests include environmental decision-making and organizational behavior, community interactions with the environment, and the role of science in policy and management. She holds a BA in Biology with a minor in Environmental Studies from Colby College, and a Master of Marine Policy from the University of Delaware.

---

### EXP-0065-F Food, Culture, and Society

*1-credit, Letter-graded*

*Tuesdays, 6:00 - 8:30 pm*

“Tell me what you eat and I will tell you who you are.”

– Anthelme Brillat-Savarin (1755-1826)

Where does our food come from? How does the study of food help us understand what we call “society,” “culture” and “identity”?

This course explores connections between what we eat and who we are through the study of how personal identities and social groups are formed via food production, preparation, and consumption. We will discuss the cultural meanings attached to food, the institutional and industrial creation of food, its preparation, and rituals of eating. We will work towards a better understanding of how food is related to identity, ethnicity, religion, politics, economics, nationalism, gender, health, and environment. We will survey some of the major debates, controversies and issues in food studies, and relate these to contemporary debates on environmental sustainability, globalization, social class, and social justice.

**Rafi Groslik** is currently a post-doc visiting scholar in the Department of Sociology at Brandeis University. His research interests include sociology of food, cultural globalization, consumption, environmental sociology, and Israeli culture, with a particular focus on organic food in Israel. He is also the founder and chair of Consumption and Culture, a research network of the Israeli Sociological Association. He earned a PhD from Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel.

