

CRAIG THOMAS

Department of Environment and Sustainability
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EDUCATION

- 2010-15 **Sustainability, Ph.D. Arizona State University**, School of Sustainability, Tempe, AZ
Dissertation: Naturalizing Sustainability Discourse: The Paradigm, Practices and Pedagogy of Thoreau, Leopold, Carson and Wilson. Committee Chair: Ben A. Minter
- 2008-12 **Environmental Management and Sustainability, M.L.A. Harvard University**, Division of Continuing Education, Cambridge, MA
Thesis: Local Climate-Change & Sustainability Planning: Are the Boston and Phoenix Municipal Plans Contextual? Committee Chair: Timothy C. Weiskel
- 1996-98 **Writing and Poetics, M.F.A. Naropa University**, The Jack Kerouac School, Boulder, CO
Thesis: W. B. Yeats: A Dialogue of Self and Soul and Let's Burn Down the Cornfield, a booklength collection of 21 short-stories. Committee Chair: Keith Abbot
- 1990-91; **English Literature, B.A., cum laude. The Ohio State University**, Department of Arts
1987-88 and Sciences, Columbus, OH
- 1988-90 **Cadet Corporal. Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering, The United States Military Academy (U.S.M.A.)** West Point, NY

CURRENT APPOINTMENT AND POSITIONS HELD

- 2018-pres. **Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Environment and Sustainability, State University of New York at Buffalo (S.U.N.Y.) College of Arts and Sciences, Buffalo, NY**
- Created and taught six new interdisciplinary EVS courses, two of which were approved as UB Pathways courses
 - Drove EVS undergraduate Environment Studies program to double in size from 90 to almost 200 students over 3 years
 - Pioneered newly designed Masters in Sustainability Leadership program from 0 students to capacity of 25-30 students
 - Collaborated to achieve one of the most full-service advising of any Department at UB
 - Consistently provided programmatic, financial and health and wellness advising to EVS undergraduate and graduate students
 - Contacted and coached at-risk retention students in Spring 2021 semester as the result of EVS academic review
 - Organized events with The Environmental Network and AKX co-ed environmental Fraternity as EVS Club Advisor
 - Coordinated internships and led internship experience discussions
 - Spearheaded UB Parents Weekend for SSID and EVS Departments, working with student ambassadors
 - Designed marketing materials for new EVS Department with UB Graduate Enrollment

- Increased semester enrollment from 30 to 80 students for EVS118 Introduction to Environment and Society
- Nominated three winning students to UB Awards for Excellence in Research, Scholarship and Creativity
- Gained understanding UB procedures as co-author of several proposals and member of many committees involved with marketing, retention and the recruiting of faculty and students
- Nominated and Appointed to Graduate Faculty
- Advised and tutored students from the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities, having understanding and experience of the methodologies in a wide range of areas
- Developed ongoing partnerships between Department and high schools, local and overseas colleges, local government and non-profit agencies, other Departments at UB and the Office of Sustainability
- Helped recruit over ten full-time and split appointments to new EVS Department

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2016-18 **Visiting Lecturer, Salem State University**, Department of Geography and Sustainability, Salem, MA
World Regional Geography (in-class and online), Introduction to Geography (in-class and online), Weather and Climate courses
- 2015-17 **Faculty Associate, Arizona State University, School of Sustainability** (online)
Curriculum development; Introduction to Sustainability, Coastal Resiliency Planning courses
- 2012-13 **Lecturer, Arizona State University**, School of Sustainability
Barrett Honors Course, Sustainable Cities; A Sustainable World, Introduction to Sustainability courses
- 2012-13 **Head Teaching Associate, Arizona State University**, School of Sustainability Sustainable Cities course
- 2010-12 **Teaching Associate, Arizona State University**, School of Sustainability, Sustainable Cities; Sustainable Ecosystems; Renewable Energy Systems; Society and Sustainability courses
- 2008-09 **Teaching Assistant, Harvard University**, Division of Continuing Education, Environmental Ethics and Land Management; Climate Change and Public Policy
- 2003-06 **Lecturer, Toko University, Applied Languages Department**, Chia-yi, Taiwan
World Literature, Modern American and British Literature, A History of English Literature, Intermediate and Advanced English Speaking and Writing courses

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2018 *Sustainability and the American Naturalists: Revisiting Thoreau, Leopold, Carson & Wilson*. Bielefeld, Germany: Transcript Verlag International Academic Publishing (distributed by Columbia University Press), <https://cup.columbia.edu/book/sustainability-and-the-american-naturalisttradition/9783837641783>

In progress *Sustainability in American Culture: Historical Perspectives on Socio-ecological Systems*

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2020 Studying American Naturalists for Transdisciplinary Solutions for Today's Wicked Problems. Oxford University Press. *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, Volume 27, Issue 2, Spring 2020, Pages 221–242, <https://doi.org/10.1093/isle/isz110>

In progress International Partnership Models for Interdisciplinary and Sustainability Education: What Works?

In progress Vulnerability and Resiliency in the R.O.C.: An Transdisciplinary Perspective on Taiwan

Book Chapters

2016-19 An Intellectual History of Sustainability. In *Sustainability for the 21st Century: Pathways, Programs, and Policies*, pp. 39-62. 1st, 2nd, 3rd Editions. Pijawka, K.D., Hagen, B., Eds. Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt, 2015-2019. ISBN-13: 978-1524968564.
<https://he.kendallhunt.com/product/sustainability-21st-century-pathways-programs-andpolicies-0>

Selected Journalism

2009 Climate Change Action Plan to Be Revealed in 2009.” *Sierra Sun Newspaper*
<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/climate-change-action-plan-to-be-revealed-in-2009/>

2009 What's Emitted in Tahoe, Stays in Tahoe. *Sierra Sun Newspaper*
<https://www.sierrasun.com/news/whats-emitted-in-tahoe-stays-in-tahoe/>

2008 Principles Pay Off in Private Groundwater. *Stony Brook Magazine*

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2015 **School of Sustainability Fellowship**, Arizona State University

2014 **Graduate School Completion Fellowship**, Arizona State University

2014 **Wrigley Fellowship**, Arizona State University

2013-14 **University Fellow and Teaching Associate**, extension. Arizona State University

2010-13 **University Fellow and Teaching Associate**, Arizona State University

2009-10 **Teaching Fellow**. Harvard University

1997 **Annual Short Story Contest Winner**; Finalist for Scribner's *Best of the Fiction Workshops*, Naropa University

1988-90 **University Fellow**, United States Military Academy (U.S.M.A.) West Point 1988
Summa Award, Ohio State University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University Courses Taught

2019-22 **EVS317 Politics of Sustainability. U.B.** 40 students. International and national relationships

between environmental problems and the political process, definitions of an environmentally sustainable society, developing a theory of social change, case studies, "Wise Use" movement and contemporary political forces championing property rights and states' rights

- 2019-22 **EVS418 Environmental Problems. U.B.** 40 students. Complex, 21st-century socio-ecological problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, exponential population growth, diminishing water sources, homogenized agricultural systems, depleting rain forests, non-point source pollution, irreversible conversion of environmental resources into disposable commodities
- 2019-22 **EVS118 Introduction to Environment and Sustainability. U.B.** 55-85 students. Foundational theories and topics important for environmental and sustainability discourse. Role of the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities in solving these local-to-global environmental issues; Environment and Society, UB Pathway courses
- 2020-22 **EVS199 Weather and Climate. U.B.** 30 students. Critical thinking, reflective discussion, solar radiation, global circulation, environmental issues, and human impact on weather stability, weather systems, severe weather, El Nino, the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, and Global Climate Change. Required course for satisfying UB Curriculum as mentorship class
- 2019-21 **EVS417/517 Sustainability and American Culture. U.B.** 8-12 students. Graduate and Undergraduate Seminar. How social sciences (sociology, anthropology, politics, economics, and public policy) and the humanities (literature, religion, history, film, critical theory, ethics, philosophy and educational theory) have shaped, and have been shaped by, sustainability
- 2019-20 **EVS330 Sustainability and Community. U.B.** 30-40 students. How communities play a role in environmental change. Rural, urban and global communities, degraded water quality and hazardous waste dumps, sustainable solutions through policy, government/community buildings, urban farming, alternative energy industries (e.g. wind and solar farms)
- 2017-18 **SOS498 Coastal Resiliency Planning. A.S.U.** 6-12 students, online. Current interdisciplinary literature on vulnerability, adaptation and resiliency, Sustainability and Climate Action Planning around the United States, creating actual resiliency-based policy proposals, emergency and disaster protocols for City of Salem, MA
- 2016-18 **GEO100 Weather and Climate. S.S.U.** 30 students. See Weather and Climate class above
- 2016-18 **GEO105 Introduction to Geography. S.S.U.** 30 students. Perspectives of geography, evolution as a problem solving science, application to contemporary issues. Spatial relations such as population dynamics, the impact of economic development, and political organization are utilized. Case studies from around the world increase the student's awareness of Geography
- 2016-18 **GEO110 World Regional Geography. S.S.U.** 30 students. Examinations of the interrelationships of the physical and cultural patterns of the world regions, broad patterns and interrelationships of physical and human geography, global interconnections which exist politically, socially, culturally, historically, and geographically, place locations
- 2015-17 **SOS100 Introduction to Sustainability. A.S.U.** 40-80 students, online. Environmental externalities, the Tragedy of the Commons, weak vs. strong sustainability, and intragenerational equity, ecological economics, ethical problems of sustainability, "wicked" problemsolving
- 2014 **SOS110 A Sustainable World. A.S.U.** Fundamental and global geological, biological, and social processes; environmental, economic, and social systems

- 2004-06 **Modern American and British Literature. T.U.** 34 students. Self-created lit. survey course
- 2004-06 **A History of English Literature. T.U.** 28 students. Self-created lit. survey course
- 2003-06 **Writing I & Writing II. T.U.** 20-40 students. Fundamentals of research and essay writing
- 2003-04 **Phonics I & Phonics II. T.U.** 15 students. Self-created course for fine-tuning pronunciation

Teaching Assistant/Associate

- 2012-13 **Barrett Honors Section, Sustainable Cities. A.S.U.** 12 students. Section for Honors students
- 2011-13 **Sustainable Cities. A.S.U.** (Head T.A.) 600-1000 students. Charles Redman and David Pijawka. Directors of SOS and GUP co-taught, speaker-intensive class
- 2011 **Sustainable Ecosystems. A.S.U.** 120 students. Sandra Remington
- 2011 **Renewable Energy Systems. A.S.U.** 160 students. Agammi Reddy
- 2010 **Society and Sustainability. A.S.U.** 120 students. Agammi Reddy
- 2009 **Environmental Ethics and Land Management. H.U.** 80 students. Timothy C. Weiskel
- 2008 **Climate Change and Public Policy. H.U.** 45 students. Timothy C. Weiskel

Other Teaching Experience

- 2001-03 **English Teacher, Ming De High School,** 60 student classes, college prep. Taichung, Taiwan
- 2000-01 **English Teacher, The Hess School,** 20 student classes, after school immersion program, Hsinchu, Taiwan
- 1998-99 **Instructor and Counselor,** Cleo-Wallace Center, 15 student classes, residential psychiatric center, Broomfield, CO
- 1996 **Instructor,** Naropa Outreach program, Creative Writing, small classes, working toward publication, Boulder CO

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY AND GUEST LECTURES

Panel Organized

- 2018 Coupled Human and Natural Systems. Association for American Geographers Annual Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana, April 10-14

Papers

- 2018 E. O. Wilson's Transdisciplinary Thinking to Solve Wicked Problems. Coupled Human and Natural Systems Panel. Association for American Geographers Annual Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana, April 10-14
- 2017 The Deep Roots of Sustainability and Interdisciplinary Thinking. Association for American Geographers Annual Conference. Boston, Massachusetts, April 7-11
- 2011 Ecocriticism and Environmental Ethics in American Literary and Critical Theory Studies. Taiwan. AASHE, International Ecocriticism conference. Dansui, Taiwan, Dec 15-18

- 2009 Angkor Wat: An Ancient Example of Water Resource Mismanagement. 2nd Annual Arizona State University Graduate Conference on Asian Studies. Tempe, Arizona, March 12

Posters

- 2016 Coastal Resiliency Planning: Linking Online Student Research to City Sustainability Planning, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, (ASSHE), Baltimore, October 11
- Naturalizing Sustainability: The Transdisciplinarity of Thoreau, Leopold, Carson & Wilson, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, (ASSHE), Nashville, October 6

Invited Talks

- 2020 Sustainability and Transdisciplinary Thinking. Department of Environment and Sustainability Seminar Series. March 6
- 2017 Can Natural Philosophy Save the World? Wicked Problems and Transdisciplinary Thinking Through History, Environmental Philosophy, University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, Wisconsin, March 2
- 2016 Climate Change and Renewable Energy, Sustainability Lecture Series, Salem State University, Salem, Massachusetts, February 4
- 2014 Biophilia and Transdisciplinarity in Sustainability Education. Biophilic Cities Launch, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, October 28

Guest Lectures

- 2019 The Restoration Principles of Thoreau, Leopold, Carson & Wilson, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York, March 14
- 2017 What is Sustainability? Salem State University, Salem, Massachusetts, October 30
- 2017 A History of Sustainability, Salem State University, Research Methods, Salem, Massachusetts, November 6
- 2014 An Intellectual History of Sustainability, Environmental History, Arizona State University, Tempe, MA, March 3
- 2013 An Intellectual History of Sustainability, Sustainable Cities, Arizona State University, Tempe, MA, November 3

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Primary Investigator

- 2010 Director of Research, Cambodia, Angkor Wat/Phnom Penh, Alexandra Cousteau's Blue Legacy, National Geographic Channel

Funded Proposals

- 2019 Study Abroad. U.B. Asian Studies Grant. \$1000 to investigate Vulnerability and Resiliency in Taiwan
- 2016 Co-investigator. PROJECT ACES: Redesigning Whole Courses for ACtive Engagement of Students Funded by: David Educational Foundation, \$35,000 over 3 years

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University Service

- 2018-pres. EVS Academic Advisor and Club Advisor, The Environmental Network, Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) and AKX
- 2019-pres. Faculty Senate Committee on Campus Environment and Sustainability
- 2019-pres. Asian Studies Oversight Committee Member
- 2018-pres. Co- Undergraduate Advisor, University at Buffalo, Department of Environment and Sustainability (200+ students)
- 2018-pres. Co-Coordinator, Environmental Internship Program (100 students per year)
- 2018-20 Director of Graduate Studies, University at Buffalo, Masters of Sustainability Leadership (27 students)
- 2018- Proposal Writing, Administration, Development of Web Content, University at Buffalo
- 2017-18 Advisor, Salem State University Chapter of The Geographical Society
- 2017-18 ACES Grant Committee, Salem State University
- 2018 Chair of Panel: Coupled Human and Natural Systems. Association for American Geography Annual Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana, April 10-14
- 2017 Coach, Salem State Team, World Geography Bowl, 2017; New England St. Lawrence Valley Regional Division Fall Meeting, October 20-21

Professional Service

- 2016 Member, No Place for Hate Committee, Salem, Massachusetts
- 2015-16 Earth Day Panel Judge, Salem State University
- 2014-17 Board Member, Renewable Energy Task Force, Salem, Massachusetts
- 2010-11 President, Harvard Extension Environmental Club
- 2009-10 Secretary, Harvard Extension Environmental Club
- 2008-09 Contributing Environmental Writer, *Sierra Sun* Newspaper
- 2005-06 Panel Judge at Rotary Club National English Speech Contest in Tainan, Taiwan
- 2005 Freshman Screening Committee Chair, Toko University
- 2004-06 Class Advisor, Classes 3A and 3B, Toko University
- 2004-06 Facilitator, Freshman Orientation, Toko University
- 2005-06 Creator, Coordinator and Judge, Toko University Annual Sonnet Contest
- 1996-97 Fundraising coordinator, *Bombay Gin* Literary Journal
- 1996-97 Co-editor, *Bombay Gin* Literary Journal

Certifications

- 1988-90 Veteran, Active Duty, U.S. Army, Honorable Discharge

2003 University Teaching Certificate Taiwan

2001-02 Certificate of Completion of 1-year reading and writing program, Mandarin Chinese, Feng-Jia University

Professional Associations

2016-pres. Association of American Geographers

2015-pres. Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)

2014-17 Renewable Energy Task Force, Salem, Massachusetts

2010-pres. Harvard Extension Environmental Club