Ecopoetics Along Shorelines: SCIENCE AND JUSTICE AROUND PUGET SOUND

July Hazard & Cleo Woelfle-Erskine Tues 10:30 AM - 2:20 PM | CHID 480A/SMEA 550A | I&S, NW, VLPA, & W credit | SPRING 2019

This class will explore shadow histories of Seattle area shores and waterways, examining historic maps, oral histories, and on-the-ground legacies of drainage projects. Through readings in poetry, ecology, shoreline management, indigenous studies, and feminist science and technology studies, students will develop justice-seeking methodologies and create a final project of shoreline relational art. We will visit tribal lands, reflecting on ecocultural politics of fishing, shell-fishing, and fisheries management. We will practice close observation of fluvial rhythms, and compose odes to the lake, sound, and tides. We will trace buried waterways, gutters, and storm drains of Seattle, and develop an apparatus for investigating hidden flows. We will contemplate post-sea level rise futures in which the city becomes an archipelago. Via shoreline exploration, students will be immersed in their own poetics of relation to area waters. Through weekly field journal writing, students will produce poetic and scientific writing, mapping, and visual art.

