**Essay Instructions**

The essay is to be 5-8 pages long, double spaced.

It must include a bibliography, which is included in the page count.

Topic:

Find an example of a “green technology” and evaluate it by the sustainability criteria provided by Huesemann and Huesemann in their book, *Techno-Fix: Why Technology Won’t Save Us or the Environment*.

In this paper you will be expected to:

A. Outline Huesemann and Huesmann’s sustainability criteria

B. Apply these criteria to a green technology, and:

1. argue, with evidence, that the green technology does not meet any of the criteria, or

2. argue, with evidence, that the green technology meets some of the criteria, or

3. argue, with evidence, that the green technology meets all of the criteria

C. Recommend, given what you learned over the term, and what Huesemann and Huesemann say, whether or not this green technology should be used, and explain why.

An argumentative paper always **normative**, it argues foror some **course of action** based on **evidence**.

So for example:

1. “The windmill meets some of Huesemann and Huesemann’s criteria for sustainability” is not an argumentative thesis, it is a descriptive one. It is not telling us to do anything, it is just telling us that the technology in question meets some criteria.

2. “The windmill meets some of Huesemann and Huesemann’s criteria for sustainability, so we should use it” is better, but it doesn’t explain which criteria are met, whether we should use the technology and why.

3. “The windmill meets two of Huesemann and Huesemann’s sustainability criteria, the Energy Generation Condition and the Materials Use Condition, so we should use it” is better, but it doesn’t explain why you should use it.

It is important to keep in mind that YOU will have to decide if meeting some or all of Huesemann and Huesemann’s criteria is sufficient to recommend the technology. Some people might find a technology that only meets some of the criteria but recommend it anyway as they believe that even meeting some is sufficient.

There needs to be an argument to address this in your essay. For example, if you believe (given argument and evidence) that the Materials Use Condition is the most important one right now due to current environmental challenges, then meeting that one condition might be considered sufficient.

You could also argue for **incrementalism**, e.g., the argument that long term environmental change will require many small adjustments, so even a partial fulfillment of Huesemann and Huesmann’s criteria is sufficient to recommend a technology. Or you may want to argue that you have to meet all of their criteria to recommend a technology, but then you need to make the case as to **why** all criteria must be met, as that is a stringent requirement.

The main point is that the essay requires you to assess the technology by Huesemann and Huesemann’s criteria, then recommend its use based on that assessment and anything else you learned this term from the other readings. You must decide when a green technology meets “enough” of the sustainability criteria based on your position on the importance of environmental issues as a while.

**General Points**

You can write in the first person.

You should state your thesis up front and outline your argument in the first section of the paper.

You can use quotations, but use them sparingly, introduce them and explain their significance, if possible paraphrase rather than quoting.

Always give a page number when referring to a source.

You will be evaluated on 6 **FACETS** of your writing:

***F****airness*- Were you fair to the author, did you evaluate their argument or a straw man?

***A****rgument* – Do you have one, is it consistent, is it persuasive?

***C****larity* – Is your presentation clear, can it be understood, do you make frequent writing mistakes?

***E****vidence* – Do you use a standard referencing style consistently, do you use paraphrasing and sometimes quotations, do you demonstrate that you understand your sources when discussing ideas?

***T****hesis* – Do you have one, is it clearly stated, is it on topic, is it argumentative, do you stick to it?

***S****ignificance*- Does your writing show you understand the significance of the topic, do you demonstrate an awareness of context in your arguments?

All out of 5, for a total of 30