

Final Plastics in the Circular Economy

For the final I want to have you address the question “Where are we going from here?” Which is the last planned section for the course on the webpage.

This is an open-ended question of broad scope. You could address your own personal lifestyle and how it could be adjusted to reduce plastic waste or to enhance circularity. You could also describe a plan of action to address one problem such as water bottle waste from UC football games or some other contribution to the circularity of plastics. Probably a bad idea is to try to address the entire course or entire field of plastics. If you worked in the paper industry, you could indicate the circularity of that industry or just the topic of using tires to replace fuel or how lignin can be used to make bio plastics. If you are interested in textiles and fashion, you could address how the future will look or give several scenarios of a good outcome and a bad outcome for circularity in that field. Narrowing it down to something very specific would be best, perhaps something you know about. Something like 6PPD-q from tires. For the graduate students you could use the subject of your report, the narrower the scope the better.

The format of the final is a 7 (or greater) slide power point presentation. The outline would be 1) what existed in the past, 2) how has that situation improved and most importantly 3) what are the scenarios for the future and what will need to occur to reach each potential outcome, particularly outcomes with an improved circularity. If you say that you would need improved regulations, then you would need to assess the possibility of that nationally and in specific states such as New York and California. You might mention that litigation will lead to solutions or international agreements such as the UN Climate or recycling agreement would drive change. You can emphasize different aspects such as a new technology to address a specific problem with a market and feasibility assessment.

I'd like to get these presentations (or a draft) by Wednesday December 4 before the last day of classes. You should be prepared to present your slides to the class in a 5-minute presentation on December 5. I'd like that class to be 1 hour and 15 minutes so we could potentially have about 15 presentations, a third of the class, I will select the presentations that look the best Wednesday night or Thursday Morning so you will need to be ready to present to the class, but you might not be chosen. If you want to modify your ppt slides submitted on December 4 you can do that up until the end of finals on December 13. If you aren't chosen and want to submit your presentation, you can record the presentation on Zoom and either send a link to the zoom recording or [make a Youtube video of a downloaded zoom MP4 file](#) (this is pretty easy to do, you can google it). I will post the voluntary presentations under the “where are we going from here” Videos: section of the webpage.