

CEEG 340–Environmental Engineering
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Great Book Summer 2019–Assignment

This year I chose the book *Autonomous* for a couple of reasons. First, it's an exciting novel that's hard to put down, and I think summer reading should be fun. Second, the book's genre, "cli-fi" (or climate change fiction), is an imaginative view of what life might look like in a post climate change future with an altered and degraded environment.

DUE DATE

Your reading response should be submitted to me via email by September 27. In addition, you need to schedule a time to meet with me for lunch (in the Terrace Room), or a coffee/milkshake (at 7th St. Café), preferably in groups of 4–5 students. This meeting needs to occur by the end of the semester, December 10. The CEEG Department will cover the costs!

ASSIGNMENT

Compose a 300–500 word reading response about the book, the story, possibilities for our future, living with climate change, renewable energy technology, and robots with brains. In your response you need to relate something in the book to your life and experiences. Topics you can discuss include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. descriptions of nature and the environment in an imaginary future and how they differ from today's nature and environment;
2. how people overcame environmental challenges related to climate change;
3. technologies used to produce energy and food, which are different from today's technologies.

You are also welcome to discuss other issues raised in this book, such as the dangers of artificial intelligence, the presence of medications in the characters' lives, slavery, etc.