

PLASTICS

Saint or Sinner?

Course #:	22S-PSS
Format:	Seminar
Moderator:	Jessie Tropp
Date and Time:	Mon, 2:00 - 4:00 PM 10 weeks, starting 2/21/2021
Location:	Zoom
Max # of Participants:	16
Auditors Accepted:	Yes
Max # of Auditors:	Up to 2

PURPOSE:

In this seminar, we'll explore different kinds of plastic, how they are manufactured, their effects on living things and the environment, and what the future is for plastics.

DESCRIPTION:

Plastics were originally developed as a substitute for ivory, to help save elephants from extinction. Now, we think of plastics as an environmental disaster and try to avoid their use. How did plastics go from being the hallmark of the modern world to being evil?

Suggested topics:

(1) The history of plastics; (2) Types of plastics and their uses; (3) Plastic in clothing; (4) Plastics and ocean life; (5) Plastic in packaging; (6) Plastic trash and recycling; (7) Health effects of plastics; (8) Microplastics; (9) Plastic and the petroleum industry; (10) Global reduction in plastic use: is it possible?; (11) Reducing plastic use in our personal lives: is it possible to live a plastic free life?; (12) Medical uses of plastic; (13) The future of plastics.

ROLE OF PARTICIPANTS:

Each participant will select will prepare and present a 30-40 minute presentation. Topics may be chosen from suggestions given, or participants may propose their own topic.

RESOURCES:

The moderator will provide a list of resources in a handout at the Preview.

ABOUT THE MODERATORS:

Jessie is a lifelong science lover and recycler who loves learning about how things are made. She previously moderated the seminar on textiles in Fall 2021.