

New course request: ENGL 3635 Literature and the Environment

Proposed catalog copy:

ENGL 3635. Literature and the Environment.

Either semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or 1011, or 2011 or 3800. Open to juniors and higher, others with consent.

Ecocritical approaches to literary treatment of global environmental issues.

Draft Syllabus:

This course studies literary works that treat the effects on both human and nonhuman life of environmental disruption. A portion of the course will provide background in literary and critical responses to nature. There will be significant focus on the literature of a specific contemporary environmental issue.

Responses to readings will include short, analytical writings and may include some creative nonfiction writing. The major requirement for the course is an annotated bibliography accompanied by an oral presentation on the subject covered by the bibliography. There is a final examination in this course. Participation is graded and includes regular attendance at class, thoughtful preparation of readings and assignments, and active and supportive engagement in discussions, both in class and online. This course includes substantial online work with assignments and online discussions posted on HuskyCT.

Final grade: participation 20%; short writings 30%; annotated bibliography & presentation, 40%; final examination, 10%.

Required text: The Cambridge Introduction to Literature and the Environment, Timothy Clark

Online texts:

Critical readings may include works by: Carol Adams, Lawrence Buell, Jacques Derrida, Greg Garrard, Donna Haraway, Garret Hardin, Ursula Heiss, Carolyn Merchant, Timothy Morton, Marian Scholtmeijer, Gary Snyder, and Rachel Stein.

Readings in nature writing, including poetry: Mary Austin, John Elder, Mary Shelley, Leslie Marmon Silko, Henry David Thoreau, Terry Tempest Williams; Bashō, John Clare, Joy Harjo, Robinson Jeffers, Denise Levertov, Gary Snyder, William Wordsworth, and Judith Wright.

Primary texts on the topic of Environmental Justice (Spring 2014):

A River Runs Through It, Norman Maclean

My Year of Meats, Ruth Ozeki

Solar Storms or People of the Whale, Linda Hogan

The Hungry Tide by Amitav Ghosh

Paradise in a Sea of Sorrow: Our Minamata Disease by Michiko Ishimure (online text)

The Wind in the Pylons by Gareth Lovett Jones

A film component of this course may be used to explore the rhetoric of environmental literature and environmental issues: "A River Runs Through It" (feature); "The Emerald Forest" (feature); "The Milagro Beanfield War" (feature); "The Cove" (documentary); and "The Secret of NIMH" (feature).

Week One	Introduction to the challenges of Environmental Literature Clark, Introduction Readings: Buell, Leopold and Morton; Austin & Wright
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Weeks Two & Three	Romanticism: British & American; other responses to nature Clark, Chapters 1, 2 & 8 Readings: Garrard & Elder; Wordsworth, Shelley, Thoreau, Bashō, & Maclean Short writing
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Weeks Four & Five	Confrontations: nature/language; female/male Clark, Chapters 4, 5 & 11 Readings: Heiss, Merchant, Snyder; Clare, Harjo, Snyder & Ozeki
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Weeks Six, & Seven	Inequalities & shortages Clark, Chapters 12 & 13 Readings: Hardin & Stein; Hogan & Ghosh Responsive writing
Week Eight	Introduction to annotated bibliography assignment Clark, Chapter 20
Weeks Nine & Ten	Disease & disorder Clark, Chapters 14-17 Readings: Haraway; Jeffers, Levertov, Williams, & Ishimure Short writing
Weeks Eleven & Twelve	Death & other dilemmas Clark, Chapters 18 & 19 Readings: Adams, Derrida, Scholtmeijer; Lovett Jones
Weeks Thirteen & Fourteen	Presentations of Annotated Bibliographies