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 Ozecki  
_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

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

Weeks Four & Five  
Confrontations: nature/language; female/male  
Clark, Chapters 4, 5 & 11  
Readings: Heiss, Merchant, Snyder; Clare, Harjo, Snyder & Ozeaki
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<tr>
<th>Weeks</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Text</th>
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<tr>
<td>Six, &amp; Seven</td>
<td>Inequalities &amp; shortages</td>
<td>Clark, Chapters 12 &amp; 13&lt;br&gt;Readings: Hardin &amp; Stein; Hogan &amp; Ghosh&lt;br&gt;Responsive writing</td>
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<td>Eight</td>
<td>Introduction to annotated bibliography assignment</td>
<td>Clark, Chapter 20</td>
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<td>Nine, &amp; Ten</td>
<td>Disease &amp; disorder</td>
<td>Clark, Chapters 14-17&lt;br&gt;Readings: Haraway; Jeffers, Levertov, Williams, &amp; Ishimure&lt;br&gt;Short writing</td>
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<td>Eleven, &amp; Twelve</td>
<td>Death &amp; other dilemmas</td>
<td>Clark, Chapters 18 &amp; 19&lt;br&gt;Readings: Adams, Derrida, Scholtmeijer; Lovett Jones</td>
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<td>Thirteen, &amp; Fourteen</td>
<td>Presentations of Annotated Bibliographies</td>
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