

Literature and The Environment Englit 0345-4010: Spring 2014

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T-TH 2:00-3:20 240 Biddle

Office: 230E Biddle Hall. Hours: T-TH, 10:00-10:50 am

Course Syllabus: Literature and The Environment

Objectives: Literature and The Environment is a course aimed at the critical exploration of writings produced in response to the natural world. Readings primarily cover the genres of poetry, essay, and fiction. The student will explore topics including a sense of self in relation to the natural world, reflective and analytical reactions to place, nature as a commodity, and environmental politics. The student will also practice written responses to his/her environment through journal writing, using the readings as models. The course aim is to develop a broad understanding of writings and themes aligned to the environment and to strengthen active and close reading skills, critical thought, and college-level writing. Enrollment in the course presupposes a familiarity with standard written and spoken English.

Format and Requirements: Students will be required to complete all assigned readings, as the readings will make up our discussion material. Reading quizzes will be given at appropriate intervals. Students will be required to keep a reflective journal that I will collect at several points during the semester. Students will deliver a presentation on the author of their choice and complete an associated paper/project. Specific requirements and grading for assignments will be outlined and discussed in class at the time of the assignment. Format of individual classes will vary, but will include lecture, instruction in reading/writing strategies, reading, writing, and discussion of assigned texts. **I will not accept late work and I will not accept emailed assignments.** Assignments are to be handed in on the date due at the start of class. Cell phones and other electronic devices are not permitted in class; cell phone or device use detected during writing/quiz time will result in an F for the assignment. All work is to be your own. Plagiarized assignments will be reported and will result, **at the minimum**, in a zero grade for the assignment.

Materials: Students are expected to have the required text, *Literature and The Environment, A Reader on Nature and Culture* (2nd Edition.) For assigned readings, students are advised to refer to the syllabus and to take note of postings and emails from the instructor. Students will need access to Internet as well as normal writing supplies (notebook, pen/pencil, word-processing capability and printing).

Attendance: It is assumed that the student has entered into the course with the intention of serious study. Students are responsible for meeting all quiz dates, assignment dates, and presentation dates. The work of this course represents a developing and on-going conversation regarding the required readings and our writing tasks. Students are invited and expected to contribute their thinking and to add to our conversation. An open and engaged atmosphere is encouraged, with respect to one another's viewpoints.

Policies: All UPJ courses are governed by the University's academic and campus-life policies, including disability and student-support services and academic integrity guidelines. These policies are available online at <http://www.bulletins.pitt.edu/johnstown/index.html>>. If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Health and Counseling Services, G-10 Student Union, 814-269-7119 as early as possible in the term. The Office of Health and Counseling Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. For other services, contact the Academic Support Center, G-16 Owen Library, 814.269.7998. Please

let me know if I can help you in any way, as well. It is my goal to help you to succeed in this course.

Grading: Your final grade will be determined by your earned points for the course, which will include quizzes, journals, participation, and final presentations. Quizzes will be unannounced and centered around assigned readings. You will not receive a passing grade in this course if you do not appear in class to take quizzes, if journals are not completed and turned in, or if you fail to complete your final presentation/paper. There is no extra credit offered in this course; I will take into account your participation, attitude in class, your effort and your improvement.

Office Hours: My office is located at 230E Biddle Hall. You may meet with me without appointment on Tuesday/Thursday during my office hours (T/TH 10:00-10:50 am). My personal email is: ajyanity@gmail.com. My Pitt email is ajy19@pitt.edu. I encourage you to contact me with questions and problems. Please make arrangements with me if you need to speak with me beyond office hours.

Week	Class Topic	Work Due
1 JAN	T 1/7: Introduction and Syllabus H 1/9: Journals assigned. Lecture: Genres	
2 Ch 1	T 1/14: Handout and discussion (Swenson). H 1/16: Oliver, Dillard	Journal 1 DUE (Thursday)
3	T 1/21: Hirschfield, Rogers, Gessner H 1/23: London	
4 Ch 2	T 1/28: Wright, Whitman, Johnson H 1/30: Leopold, Lawrence, Dickenson	Journal 2 DUE (Thursday)
5 FEB Ch 3	T 2/4: Lee, Nabhan H 2/6: Berry, Salatin/Taylor	
6 Ch 4	T 2/11: Oates H 2/13: Rexroth, Hughes	Journal 3 DUE (Thursday) Part One Test
7	T 2/18: Hogan, Stevens H 2/20: Rios	
8 Ch 5	T 2/25: Lasn, Louv H 2/27: Berry, Sanders	Journal 4 DUE (Thursday)
9 MAR	T 3/4: Frost, Daniel H 3/6: Irving	
	SPRING BREAK	
10 Ch 6	T 3/18: Dove, Bass H 3/20: Bacigalupi	Journal 5 DUE (Thursday) Part Two Test
11 Ch 7	T: 3/25: Abbey H: 3/27: Wordsworth, Baca, Roszak	
12 APR	T 4/1: Solnit, Hanson H 4/3: VIDEO and discussion	Journal 6 DUE (Thursday)
13 Ch 8	T 4/8: Erdrich, Kaufman, Merwin H 4/10: Stegner, Orr	
14 Ch 9	T 4/15: Carson, Jefferson H 4/17: Jensen, Pollan	Journal 7 DUE (Thursday) Part Three Test
15	FINALS WEEK	Final date TBA

Syllabus and reading schedule is subject to change. Please pay attention to announcements/emails from your instructor. Unless changes are announced, due dates are not negotiable. Other readings will be provided in-class or made available to you online. Internet access is required.

Assignment	Points Offered	Total Points Available
Reflective Journal	20 (7 due)	140
Participation	3 (26 due)	80
Section Tests	30 (3 due)	90
Final (Essay Format)	90	90

Total points available: 400