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EVST 305L.01: The Environmental Vision - Reading and Thinking about Nature and the Environment

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL VISION

Reading & Thinking about Nature & the Environment

EVST 305.01 Fall 2008 T/TH 2:10-3:30pm LA 203

Phil Condon 243.2904 phil.condon@mso.umt.edu

Office Hours in Rankin 104: M/W 2-3 pm & T/TH Noon-1pm & by appt.

Required Texts:

Mansfield Library ERES: EVST 305 (password = vision)

1) *Nature and Walking*, Emerson & Thoreau

3) *Sand County Almanac*, Aldo Leopold

5) *Desert Solitaire*, Edward Abbey

Pocket Style Manual, Hacker (PSM)

2) *Land of Little Rain*, Mary Austin

4) *Ecology of a Cracker Childhood*, Janisse Ray

6) *Dwellings*, Linda Hogan

Purposes & Outcomes: Through reading survey, discussion analysis, and written response -- To acquaint you with seminal, influential, and contemporary works and authors in writing about nature, environment, natural history, and place; to provide background, framework, context, and understanding of the development of key approaches, forms, themes, and concepts of environmental literature; to explore the literature's response to and influence upon important environmental events, figures, and movements, both past and present.

Required Work: Read assigned readings according to course schedule (see reverse). Note: For each assigned ERES reading, **print it out and bring** to that class for our discussion. Keep your own informal reading journal (observations, questions, responses, etc) and bring it to each class to help you participate.

This is a reading intensive course: total reading required = around 1300 pages (averaging 85-90 pages/week).

Write 5 1-page, double/spaced critical response essays (CRE) **due** each Thursday 9/4 to 10/2, 1 2-pg CRE due TH 10/16, and 1 3-pg CRE due TH 10/30. For these, you select subjects from among readings for the week(s). I'll return each on the following Tues with editing keyed to PSM; you correct & return by next class.

Write a major critical response essay on writer(s), writing(s), and concern(s) that you select (2500 words *minimum* —about 8-10 pgs, double-spaced) **due by Tues Nov 18**. I'll return it Tues Nov 25 with thorough response & suggestions; you then revise it and return no later than Finals week class Wed 12/10 @ 3:30pm. All writing assignment expectations will be discussed at length during course. Major critical response essay topics and approaches may arise from among your previous 7 shorter written responses, our class discussions and small-group work, your outside reading and research, and your related life experiences and interests.

Attend at least 3 out-of-class live public readings of nature/environmental writing. Some possibilities include TT Williams Th 9/25, the MT Book Festival Readings 10/23-24; EVST grad student thesis or other readings TBA in class in advance. Write a 1-paragraph response to each reading you attend and turn it in within 1 week.

Course Grading: Seven reading responses & corrections = ¼ Major response essay = ¼
Attendance, preparation, participation in class & assignments = ¼ Revision of major response essay = ¼
(CR/NCR Grading Policy: P = C letter grade or above)

Semester Schedule (subject to changes and substitutions as announced in class each day):

ERES = Library Electronic Reserve **NW** = Nature & Walking **D** = Dwellings **DS** = Desert Solitaire
LLR = Land of Little Rain **ECC** = Ecology of a Cracker Childhood **SCA** = Sand County Almanac

WK 1	T 8/26 TH 8/28	Intros, Syllabus, Schedule, In-Class Reading & Writing 2 ERES: Hilbert/Disturbing the Universe & Williams/Save the Whales, Screw the Shrimp	
2	T 9/2 TH 9/4	NW: Walking p 71 to end (p 122) & ERES: Solnit/Thoreau Problem NW: Elder/Intro & Nature thru p 12 & ERES: Whitman/Photo Essay	<i>1 pg CRE</i>
3	T 9/9 TH 9/11	NW: Nature p 13 to end (p 67) & ERES: Berry/Mad Farmer Poem 2 ERES: Dillard/Living Like Weasels & Finch/Very Like a Whale	<i>1 pg CRE</i>
4	T 9/16 TH 9/18	LLR: Preface thru The Basket Maker LLR: Streets of the Mountains to end	<i>1 pg CRE</i>
5	T 9/23 TH 9/25	3 ERES: Muir/Wind Storm & Quammen/Face of a Spider & Walker/Am I Blue? 3 ERES: TT Williams/Yucca; Yellowstone Erotics of Place; Redemption	<i>1 pg CRE</i>
6	T 9/30 TH 10/2	SCA: Part I (p 3 thru p 92) SCA: Part II (p 94 thru 162)	<i>1 pg CRE</i>
7	T 10/7 TH 10/9	SCA: Part III (p 165 thru p 226) SCA: Foreword, Intro, & About the Author & ERES: Hawken/To Remake the World	
8	T 10/14 TH 10/16	2 ERES: Eiseley/Flow of the River & Berry/Makings of a Marginal Farm 2 ERES: Nichols/Keep It Simple & Pollan/Why Mow?	<i>2 pg CRE</i>
9	T 10/21 TH 10/23	ECC: beginning (p 3) thru p 98 ECC: p 99 thru p 150	
10	T 10/28 TH 10/30	ECC: p 151 thru p 222 ECC: p 223 thru end (Look at Appendices & Acknowledgements)	<i>3 pg CRE</i>
11	T 11/4 TH 11/6	NO CLASS—ELECTION DAY 4 ERES: Beston/Orion...; Carson/Silent Spring; RC's Birthday Bashing; Lopez/Apologia	
12	T 11/11 TH 11/13	NO CLASS--VETERANS DAY DS: Author's Intro thru Polemic: . . .	
13	T 11/18 TH 11/20	DS: Water; Heat of Noon; Moon-Eyed Horse; Havasu DS: Havasu; Dead Man . . . ; Episodes & Visions; Bedrock & Paradox	<i>Major CRE</i>
14	T 11/25 TH 11/27	3 ERES: Jensen/Thought to Exist... & Millet/Die, Baby Harp Seal! & Newkirk/Science Is NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING	
15	T 12/2 TH 12/4	D: preface thru Creations (p 98) D: Stories of Water (p 99) thru end (p 159)	

Wed 12/10 @ 3:20pm Final Class: *All revisions of major CRE are due on or before this hour;* *Revision*
 student evaluations of course; $\frac{3}{4}$ course grades available; closing ceremonies; farewells

UM Dates: **9/15:** Last add or drop on C-Bear with refund **10/6:** Last add or drop with Override/No \$\$ back
11/26: Last withdrawal from all courses **12/5:** Last drop or grade option change by petition