

1-2015

ENST 505.01: Literature of Nature Writing

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THE LITERATURE OF NATURE WRITING 2015

Crows /Braid / Words /Heart: The Once & Future World of Nature Writing

EVST 505.01

Spring 2015

Phil Condon

MAY 12:40-2pm

Rankin 107 Hrs: M-TH 2:15-3:30pm

Contact: phil.condon@mso.umt.edu 243.2904

Books: *Norton Anthology of Nature Writing*. Norton 2002. *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Robin Kimmerer 2013. *Brave New Words*. Elizabeth Ammons. 2010. *The Once & Future World*. J.B. MacKinnon. 2013. *Crow Planet*. Lyanda Haupt. 2009. *The Barbaric Heart*. Curtis White. 2009. *Full Body Burden*. Kristen Iverson. 2012. *The End of Nature*. Bill McKibben. 1989.1999.

Essays: Moodle ENST 505.01

Recommended: *Pocket Style Manual*, Hacker.

Note: All of these books are either on hardcopy RESERVE in Mansfield Library or E-Copy in ML holdings.

Purposes & Outcomes: To acquire understanding of some of the predominant traditions, concerns, forms, and diversity of American Nature Writing; to broaden and challenge the conceptions we and others may have about the boundaries and implications of Nature Writing; to relate and orient these understandings and broadened conceptions to the ideas and approaches in 6 powerful 21st-century nature/environmental books with very different subjects and perspectives; to reflect and express in a portfolio that includes several forms of writing the inquiry, analysis, discovery, delight, and/or misgivings discovered in these readings and our discussions. Secondly, to write brief amateur natural history Field Note essays from individual field trips, and to hear the spoken word of contemporary nature & environmental writing at various University and community venues.

Major Writing: a course portfolio (minimum total of 7000 words) that includes 5 different specific writing assignments. Students combine these assignments in varying proportions to best suit their interests and needs. The assignments, described in detail elsewhere, include KUFM Field Notes (<600 wds), a letter to an author of a course reading (300-1K wds), an analytical/critical response to one or more course readings (1500-4K wds), an original environmental/nature essay arising from and rooted in individual experience (1500-4K wds), and brief responses to at least 4 live reading events* (300-1K wds total). Everyone will read from and present selections of their portfolio work in class between 4/27-5/6 and all work is due in by Mon 5/11. At least through 4/15, students can turn in any drafts any time for instructor response & suggestion before revision.

Format: Unless otherwise specified, please: Titled, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12pt font, numbered pages, word count included, and proofread and edited according to Hacker *PSM* or similar style guide.

Reading: Approximately 1800 pages, averaging about 75-100 pgs per class. See full schedule for specifics.

Other Work: Keep an active reading journal on all course readings; lead/facilitate class discussion as per assigned schedule (made from your preferences where possible). Browse, peruse, read from Norton anthology throughout semester and select and rank any 3 essays you like, want others to read, and would enjoy leading discussion on, for assignment of 1 of them to class in Weeks 11 & 12 Turn those ranked selections in on M 4/6.

Course Grades: Written Portfolio = 3/4

Participation, preparation, presentations (attendance) = 1/4

* Choices for live readings include 6 Wild Mercy Readings Thursdays 2/19-3/26 at UM FLAT & others TBA. If you hear of any live readings relevant to our course, please let class know.

CP=Crow Planet

OFW=Once & Future World

BNW =Brave New Words

EON=End of Nature BSG=Braiding Sweetgrass FBB=Full Body Burden BH=The Barbaric Heart

<u>Wk#</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Readings / Discussion</u>	<u>(xx) - number of pgs</u>	<u>Writing Due</u>
1	m 1/26 w 1/28	Review Syllabus & Schedule, Discuss Course, Introductions NORTON: 2 Intros & Gilbert White and Janisse Ray; MOOD: Solnit (3)		
2	m 2/2 w 2/4	BNW: Preface and thru 101 BNW: 102-174		
3	m 2/9 w 2/11	CP: thru 108 CP: 109-217 end		
4	m 2/16 w 2/18	NO CLASS—PD HOLIDAY FBB: to 166		
5	m 2/23 w 2/25	FBB: 167-240 FBB: 241-344 (& look at Ode & timeline & notes)		
6	m 3/2 w 3/4	EON: xv thru 91 (Intro & Part I) EON: 93 thru 217 (Part II)		
7	m 3/9 w 3/11	BH: Foreword, Preface, & thru p 107 BH: pl09-177		
8	m 3/16 w 3/18	BSG: thru 117 BSG: 119 thru 201		
9	m 3/23 w 3/25	BSG: 205-301 BSG: 303-384		PF # 1 DUE
SPRING BREAK:		M-F 3/30-4/3		
10	m 4/6 w 4/8	OFW: 3 thru 128 OFW: 129 thru 215		
11	m 4/13 w 4/15	2 NORTON Rdgs Selected & Assigned by Classmates PF # 2 NORTON Rdgs Selected & Assigned by Classmates		OR #4 DUE
12	m 4/20 w 4/22	2 NORTON Rdgs Selected & Assigned by Classmates 2 NORTON Rdgs Selected & Assigned by Classmates		PF #2 DUE
13	m 4/27 w 4/29	2 Portfolio Presentations 2 Portfolio Presentations		
14	m 5/4 w 5/6	2 Portfolio Presentations 2 Portfolio Presentations & Class Evals		
Finals Week		All Portfolio & Course Work due in Rankin mailbox/office by 5pm Optional Individual Conferences Scheduled Tues-Fri		Mon 5/11