ENST 335L.01: The Environmental Vision: Reading & Thinking about Nature & the Environment

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THE ENVIRONMENTAL VISION

Reading & Thinking about Nature & the Environment

ENST 335L Fall 2013 T/TH 2:10-3:30pm LA 140

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Office Hours in Rankin 107A: M & W 2-3 pm & T & TH Noon-1pm & by appt.

Required Rdgs/Books: Mansfield Library Electronic Reserve (ERES): EVST 335 (password = vision)
High Country News—7 free fall 2013 issues as they arrive for everyone

1) Pocket Style Manual, Hacker (PSM)
2) Nature and Walking, Emerson & Thoreau
3) Land of Little Rain, Mary Austin
4) Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold
5) Ecology of a Cracker Childhood, Janisse Ray
6) Desert Solitaire, Edward Abbey
7) Dwellings, Linda Hogan
8) Refuge, Terry Tempest Williams

Purposes & Outcomes Through critical reading, class discussion & analysis, and written response: to become familiar with seminal, influential, and contemporary works and authors in American writing about nature, environment, natural history, and place; to develop a background, framework, understanding & context of key approaches, forms, themes, and concepts of American environmental literature; to be able to articulate this literature’s response to and influence upon important environmental events, figures, issues, and movements.

Required Work:

Read assigned readings according to course schedule (see reverse). For each assigned ERES reading, print it out and bring it to that class for our discussion. Keep your own informal reading journal as you read these (observations, questions, responses, etc.) and bring that also to each class to help you participate. Note: This is a reading intensive course: total reading required = around 1500 pages (averaging about 100 pages/week).

Write five 1-2 pg, double/spaced critical response essays (CRE) due each Thursday 9/5 to 10/1. For each, you select subject & approach from readings for those weeks. I return each the next Tues with comments and with editing keyed to PSM; you then edit by next class. Write one 4-5 pg Midterm CRE due Th 10/17, and one significant revision—after receiving my response and suggestions—of the Midterm CRE due Tues 11/12.

Write a major critical response essay on writer(s), writing(s), and concern(s) that you select (2500 words -- about 8-10 pgs, double-spaced--minimum) due no later than Finals week class: Tue 12/10 at 3:20pm. All writing assignment expectations will be discussed at length during course. Major critical response essay topics and approaches may arise from among your previous 6 shorter written responses, class discussions & small-group work, your outside reading and research, & your related life experiences & interests.

Look over each issue of High Country News and read at least one essay/article you choose. Write 4 brief, 1-page connection responses that connect something you select from 4 issues to something in our class readings or discussions. Attend at least 1 out-of-class live public reading of nature/environmental writing. Possibilities include MT Book Festival 10/4-5 & others TBA in class. Write a brief 1-page response to the reading. Turn in all 5 of these short responses as you finish them but no later than Thanksgiving.

Course Grading: 5 CRE’s & corrections = 1/10 5 HCN & OR responses = 1/10 Major CRE = 1/5
Midterm CRE = 1/5 Revision of MT CRE = 1/5 Attendance, preparation, participation, daily work = 1/5 (CR/NCR Grading Policy: CR = C letter grade or above)

ENST 335L Semester Schedule (subject to changes and substitutions as announced in class each day):
WK  1  T 8/27  Intros, Syllabus, Schedule, In-Class Reading & Writing  
TH 8/29  2 ERES: Hilbert/Disturbing the Universe & Williams/Save the Whales, Screw the Shrimp

2  T 9/3  3 ERES: Thoreau/Civil Disobedience & Wild Fruits & Solnit/Thoreau Problem  
TH 9/5  NW: Elder/Intro & Nature thru p 12 & HCN Readings TBA  1-2 pg CRE

3  T 9/10 NW: Nature p 13 to end (p 67) & ERES: Berry & Whitman  
TH 9/12  3 ERES: Steingraber/Sparrow; Finch/Whale; Dillard/Weasel  1-2 pg

CRE

4  T 9/17 LLR: Preface thru The Basket Maker  
TH 9/19 LLR: Streets of the Mountains to end  1-2 pg CRE

5  T 9/24  3 ERES: Muir/Wind Storm & Quammen/Face of a Spider & Walker/Am I Blue?  
TH 9/26 SCA: Part I (p 3 thru p 92)  1-2 pg CRE

6  T 10/1 SCA: Part II (p 94 thru 162)  
TH 10/3 SCA: Part III (p 165 thru p 226)  1-2 pg CRE

7  T 10/8  R: thru Redheads (p114)  
TH 10/10  R: thru Storm Petrel (p178)

8  T 10/15 R: thru end (p290) (Look at Appendices & Acknowledgements)  
TH 10/17  4 ERES: 2 essays by Gary Snyder; 2 essays by Bill McKibben.  Midterm CRE (4-5pgs)

9  T 10/22 DS: Author’s Intro thru end of Polemic on Industrial Tourism  
TH 10/24 DS: Water, Heat of Noon, Moon-Eyed Horse, Havasu

10 T 10/29 DS: Dead Man GP, Episodes/Visions, Bedrock/Paradox  Midterm CRE returned  
TH 10/31 2 ERES: Jensen/Forget SS; Millet/Die BHS!; HCN Readings TBA

11  T 11/5 ECC: p3 thru p 98  
TH 11/7 ECC: p 99 thru p 150

12  T 11/12 ECC: p 151 thru p 222  Midterm CRE

Revision

TH 11/14 ECC: p 223 thru end (& Appendices & Acknowledgements)

13  T 11/19  2 ERES: Climate Change U: Hawken/Remake the World  
TH 11/21 HCN discussion: Readings TBA

14  T 11/26  D: 1st third TH 11/28 NO CLASS—THANKSGIVING  all HCN & Rdg

Responses

15  T 12/3  D: 2nd third  
TH 12/5  D: 3rd third

Finals Wk  Tues 12/10: 3:20-5:20: Last day to turn in Major CRE (2500 word minimum)  Major CRE
4/5 course grades available; closing & farewells

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