

GREEN LIT

COURTNEY DANFORTH

Required Texts:

Anderson, Lorraine., Scott P. Slovic, and John P. O'Grady. *Literature and the Environment: a reader on nature and culture*. 2nd ed. New York, Longman. 2012. (9780205229352)

Meeting Times:

This is a 3 credit course meeting from 21 January 2014 to 18 May 2014. As a 3 credit course, students are expected to allocate an average of 9 hours each week (75 mins. in the classroom). Students are permitted to work ahead of the planned schedule insofar as they are able.

Course Objectives:

- Use critical reading and writing skills to engage and analyze literary texts;
- Demonstrate ability to connect and contextualize literary works;
- Demonstrate awareness that literature reflects the diversity of human experience across time and place.

Instructor Info:

Courtney Danforth, best reached during this course via the email function inside of Canvas. Please call me "Courtney" or "Professor Danforth." Please expect 10 working days for grades and 24 working hours (9-5, Mon-Thu, not holidays) for message responses.



Course Description

English 223 is an opportunity for students to study a single theme across multiple genres, epochs, styles, and media of literature. This course, Green Lit: literature and the environment, focuses on the theme of the environment in fiction, non-fiction, verse, and film. Themes and ideas significant in literature. May be repeated for a maximum six credits. Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of ENG 101 or permission of Department Chair or Instructor.



POLICIES

Attachments: Please use the copy/paste function of your computer to submit written assignments. Your instructor does not read attachments. Canvas provides all necessary formatting tools in submission windows. However, it is prudent to compose (and save often) or draft all documents outside of Canvas to prevent data loss. Google Docs is free and an excellent word processing choice.

Attendance: Students are expected to participate by attending class and/or logging in to the course site in Canvas, Monday-Thursday.

CSN Academic Integrity

Policy: <http://www.csn.edu/pages/904.asp> [See also, Instructor Academic Integrity Policy --->]

CSN Disruptive & Abusive

Student Policy: <http://tinyurl.com/8dvcrew>

CSN Student Conduct Code:

<http://tinyurl.com/8e44g5m>

Disabilities: Please read the CSN Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) statement and consult the CSN Disability Resource Center at <http://www.csn.edu/pages/2566.asp>. Your instructor is committed to providing the accommodations to which you are entitled.

Late/Makeup Work: Late assignments are not accepted and makeup work is not offered except for extraordinary circumstances.

Withdrawal: You must withdraw yourself to get a W on your transcript. If you do not, I will record the grade you earn.



INSTRUCTOR ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

All academic integrity violations in the course will be reported to the campus administration. In-course consequences range from failure of the assignment to failure of the course. As long as you are disciplined in your research, reading, and record-keeping, and clearly indicate all responsibilities and sources, you should be fine. As a reminder, any information that is not your original idea or common knowledge requires citation. It can be confusing to know what qualifies as plagiarism and how to avoid it. For help, see: http://www.plagiarism.org/plag_article_plagiarism_faq.html. The documentation system we will use in this course is MLA. To refresh your understanding of MLA, see: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>. For help forming MLA style Works Cited, try: <http://www.easybib.com/>.

GRADES

There are

675

points available in the course (plus extra credit).

649-675	A
622-648	A-
595-621	B+
568-594	B
541-567	B-
514-540	C+
487-513	C
460-486	C-
433-459	D+
406-432	D
379-405	D-
0-378	F

Final grades will be available by 21 May.

Assignments

ORIENTATION QUIZ

After reading the syllabus thoroughly, investigating your textbooks, and getting to know the course site in Canvas, this quiz will help to make sure you understand how the course will progress. You will have two hours to complete the 20 question quiz and are free to use any resources you have available (“open book”). The Orientation Quiz is worth 10 points towards your course grade.

OBSERVATION PLAN

Please choose an environment to study throughout the term. This portion of the course asks you to select an environment, study it systematically, and use it to form your final course project. More on that later. Choose an environment you will be able to access weekly. If you can commit to climbing to the summit of Sunrise Mountain every week, that’s great! But if you can only get as far as studying the inside of your refrigerator every week, that’s okay too. The environment you choose to observe will guide the topic and form of your final project.

For the Observation Plan part of the assignment, record all the information you and I will need to know about the environment you’ll be observing. Your plan should include description, geospatial location, history, hypotheses for change, explanation of choice, etc. Details are on the dropbox. The Observation Plan is worth 40 points towards your course grade.

OBSERVATIONS

Plan to make at least ten visits to your chosen environment during the semester (one visit per week). For each visit, make a series of structured observations (details on the dropbox) that you can use for your final course project. Each observation is worth 10 points towards your course grade. You can complete as many as eleven observations and are expected to complete at least ten in order to have enough data for your final project.

DISCUSSION PREP

Most weeks in the course, we will have a set of thematically related readings and a discussion question to prepare. For each week’s discussion, follow the guidelines on the specific dropbox to guide your reading, to start you thinking about the discussion question, and to prepare you for class. These assignments are your course reading notes and even though you should already be making notes like this, in this course you can earn credit for doing them well. There are nine discussions in the course and your prep for each is worth 15 points. You should submit your work to Canvas before class and also bring a copy with you to use during class.

FILM REPORTS

Throughout the course, you should choose two films related to your Project topic to help you prepare. Please choose from the list (or propose another title), watch the films, and hand in a report, following the posted template. Each of two film reports is worth 25 points.

TESTS

There are three tests in the course (on readings and films). Each test has 35 multiple-choice or multiple-select questions and 5 questions that ask you to choose and justify evidence from the readings that prove a given thesis. For example, if the thesis provided was, “While animals play many roles in the environment, their most important role is as food.”, then you would choose a quotation from five different readings and say how each proves the thesis. You will get practice in answering this style of test question on each Discussion Prep assignment. 60 minutes. Tests open 24 hours before the deadline. Each of three tests is worth 40 points towards your course grade.

FINAL COURSE PROJECT

For your final project, your job is to take your observations, your observation plan, your 9 discussion preps, your class notes, and everything you learned or thought about during the course, combine it with library research and turn it all into something that communicates something important about your environment.

Your project can take the form of a formal essay, a documentary film, an animated short, an app or game, a short story, a one act play/film, a piece of legislation, a sonnet cycle, a ballet, a comic, a concerto, or maybe something else entirely that I haven’t thought of yet. You won’t earn any extra credit just for being “creative” (ugh... this isn’t middle school)--I just want you to be free to choose a genre or medium that best suits whatever point you end up wanting to make about your environment.

Whatever you end up wanting to make, plan a project that can be satisfactorily completed in approximately 20 hours. You will be asked to account for your time in both the Proposal and the Questionnaire project elements. There are several parts to this project, due at several different points in the course.

- Proposal (20 points)
- Status Report (20 points)
- Project (100 points)
- Project Questionnaire (20 points)
- Presentation (20 points)
- Peer Reviews (1 extra credit point for each 250 word evaluation of a classmate’s project)

FINAL EXAM

The final exam (on readings and films) has 75 multiple-choice and multiple-select questions. It is worth 50 points towards your course grade. 180 minutes.

Course Schedule

NOTE: All assignments are due by 1pm (local Las Vegas time) on their indicated due dates. At deadline, their links in Canvas will disappear and you will no longer be able to access the dropboxes or submit your work. Please plan ahead.

21 Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read through the syllabus, look through your textbook, click around the Canvas site, and figure out how all this is going to work. Plan for a successful course! • Read Oliver (3) • Read Williams (4) • Read Dillard (5) • Read Couturier (15) • Read Rowntree (21) • Read London (26)
28 Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation Quiz due • Discussion Prep 1 due • Discussion: What is wild and instinctual in our nature and how do we respond to it? How does this response influence our relations with the outer world? • Read Whitman (48) • Read Rothenberg (54) • Read Jewett (60) • Read Lopez (72) • Read Lawrence (84) • Read Dickinson (86)
4 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation Plan due • Discussion Prep 2 due • Discussion: How do we regard other creatures and what do our encounters with them reveal about us? • Read Lee (90) • Read Masumoto (91) • Read Berry (99) • Read Thoreau (108) • Read Oates (115) • Read Salatin (125)
11 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation 1 due • Discussion Prep 3 due • Discussion: What is the effect of our diet on us and the environment and how do we eat responsibly? Under what circumstances are we justified in taking the life of another creature?
18 Feb (Test, no class)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation 2 due • Test 1: The Human Animal (open 1pm, 17 Feb to 1pm, 18 Feb) • What is/should be the relationship between humans and animals? • Review the Final Project assignment and start planning your project. • Read Hughes (138) • Read hooks (139) • Read Muir (149) • Read Stevens (159) • Read Kerouac (160) • Read Lowell (180)

Course Schedule

25 Feb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation 3 due • Discussion Prep 4 due • Discussion: How does the experience of place affect our inner lives? How are we affected by natural versus artificial environments? • Read Berry (185) • Read Mora (199) • Read Meloy (202) • Read Frost (218) • Read Irving (219)
4 Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation 4 due • Discussion Prep 5 due • Discussion: What do we know about our homes and what are our responsibilities (as both individuals and communities) toward our homes? • Read Dove (237) • Read Walker (238) • Read Owens (244) • Read Bass (246) • Read Abbey (249) • Read Williams (261)
11 Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation 5 due • Discussion Prep 6 due • Discussion: What impact do politics and power have on particular places and our experience of them?
18 Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring Break
25 Mar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation 6 due • Test 2: Inhabiting Place (open 1pm, 24 March to 1pm, 25 March) • How do the places we spend our lives affect us? • Read Wordsworth (291) • Read Melville (312) • Read Solnit (322) • Read Meadows (325) • Read Hanson (335) • Read Ginsberg (337)
1 Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Proposal due • Observation 7 due • Discussion Prep 7 due • Discussion: How do our individual financial decisions affect our well-being and that of the world? • Read Collins (339) • Read Erdrich (340) • Read Merwin (358) • Read Stegner (374) • Read Orr (379)
8 Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation 8 due • Discussion Prep 8 due • Discussion: What does our use of natural resources say about who we are and what we value? • Read Emerson (384) • Read Carson (391) • Read Bruchac (402) • Read Pollan (413) • Read Kingsolver (418) • Read Lovins (429)

Course Schedule

15 Apr (Conferences, no class)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation 9 due • Discussion Prep 9 due • Discussion: What are the prospects for humanity given our current approach to the environment? • Project Status Report due
22 Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test 3: Economy & Ecology • Observation 10 due • How do our economic values affect our environments?
29 Apr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation 11 due • Work on your project! • Film Reports due
6 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project due • Presentations
13 May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer Reviews due • Project Questionnaire due • Final Exam will be open from 1pm on 12 May until 1pm on 13 May.