

Course Title	Ecocriticism				
Course Code	ENS660				
Course Type	Optional				
Level	Master (2 <sup>nd</sup> Cycle)				
Year / Semester	2 <sup>nd</sup> Year /3 <sup>rd</sup> Semester				
Teacher's Name	TBA				
ECTS	10	Lectures / week	Up to 6 teleconferences	Laboratories / week	N/A
Course Purpose and Objectives	<p>This course aims to help students relate abstract questions of literary and aesthetic debate to the multiple and urgent ecological crises of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Tracing human attitudes to the concepts of nature and the natural since the early modern period, we will first examine the ways that literary constructions serve and/or critique an ethics of exploitation. We will then explore the ways that new literary works respond to changing scientific and ethical understandings of ecological relationships, and problematize the human/nonhuman divide.</p>				
Learning Outcomes	<p>Upon successful completion of this course students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define ecocriticism, its origins and questions and challenges of applicability in the field of literary criticism</li> <li>• Examine and debate the principal theoretical debates surrounding human relationships with the natural environment, particularly in light of ecological changes</li> <li>• Combine researched materials from a variety of fields to form interdisciplinary approaches to ecocritical questions</li> <li>• Define and explore the relationship of ecocriticism to other forms of social critique, including but not limited to critical race theory, queer theory and feminism.</li> <li>• Apply ecocritical principles to the discussion of selected literary texts.</li> </ul>				
Prerequisites	None	Co-requisites	None		
Course Content	<p>Why should we read literature while the global climate is breaking down, the seas are filling with plastic, and species succumb to the sixth Great Extinction in the planet's history? Since its emergence in the 1980's as a distinct genre of critical theory, ecocriticism has sought to use literature as a tool to explore the relationship between human and non-human, including both the biosphere and also the physical environment. Inherently interdisciplinary, ecocriticism seeks to erase the distinctions between CP Snow's "Two Cultures" of science and the humanities, both bringing geographical, geological, biological and physical knowledges to the study of literature, and</p>				

	<p>also using humanistic enquiry to illuminate questions of the rhetoric of the natural. In particular, recent ecocriticism has begun to ask how literary works might enable a reconnection between human and nonhuman worlds, and how recent ecologically conscious fiction enables a mourning for the already destabilised and soon to be destroyed natural world.</p> <p>This course will introduce students to these debates by examining different forms of ecological critique, including forms of posthumanism, postcolonial ecologies, animal studies, queer ecologies, the anthropocentric/ecocentric divide and ecofeminism. Selected nature writings from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries will be considered through an ecocritical lens, and more recent dystopian fictions will be considered for their ecological message. Students will also be encouraged to bring ecocritical insights to bear in critiquing texts with no overt ecological concerns.</p>						
Teaching Methodology	E-Learning						
Bibliography	<p>Bladow, Kyle and Jennifer Ladino. <i>Affective Ecocriticism: Emotion, Embodiment, Environment</i>. Nebraska UP, 2018.</p> <p>Clark, Timothy. <i>Ecocriticism on the Edge: The Anthropocene as a Threshold Concept</i>. Bloomsbury Academic, 2015.</p> <p>Hiltner, Ken (ed.) <i>Ecocriticism</i>. Routledge, 2014.</p> <p>Mortimer-Sandilands, Catriona and Bruce Erickson (eds.) <i>Queer Ecologies: Sex, Nature, Politics, Desire</i>. Indiana UP, 2010.</p> <p>Morton, Timothy. <i>Dark Ecology: For a Logic of Future Coexistence</i>. Columbia UP, 2016.</p> <p>Zapf, Hubert. <i>Literature as Cultural Ecology: Sustainable Texts</i>. Bloomsbury, 2017.</p>						
Assessment	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Final Examination</td> <td style="width: 40%; text-align: center;">50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Assignments/On-going evaluation</td> <td style="text-align: center;">50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">100%</td> </tr> </table>	Final Examination	50%	Assignments/On-going evaluation	50%		100%
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	100%						
Language	English						