

Nature in Popular Culture

ENVS 410/510 T/Th 2-3:50pm

Spring 2015 Prof. Sarah D. Wald

This course examines the various ways that nature is represented in U.S. popular culture. What can advertisements, films, television, and popular music teach us about the ways we imagine nature and the environment? What ideas about nature are conveyed by zoos, aquariums, and nature-oriented theme parks? In this course, we will talk about what is at stake in these kinds of depictions of the natural world. We will consider how ideas about race, gender, and sexuality are articulated through popular representations of nature as we explore why and how representations of nature and the environment in popular culture matter. How do representations of nature justify existing relationships of power and privilege in society? In what ways do representations of nature contest the existing relationships of power and privilege in society?

