

ENVS 203 SYLLABUS

Environmental Studies and the Humanities

Course Instructor: Thomas Mason

Contact: Mason3@uoregon.edu

Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:00-1:50 PM, 16 Pacific

Office Hours: TBD

Readings are from our anthology, Environment, are indicated with page numbers.
Pdfs are posted on Blackboard.

Week 1

M Sep 26 – Course Introduction

Traditional Conceptions of the Human-Nature Relation

W Sep 28

- Soper, from *What is Nature?*, p. 596-602
- Cherokee Creation Story, pdf
- Boshongo Creation Story, pdf
- Selections from *Genesis*, pdf

Week 2

M Oct 3

Western Models

- Plato, *The Nature of the Soul and its Relation to the Body*, pdf
- Francis of Assisi, *Canticle of Brother Sun*, p. 569-571
- Descartes, *Animals as Automata*, pdf

The Legacy of Christianity

W Oct 5

- White, *The Historical Roots of Our Environmental Crisis*, pdf
- Berry, *The Gift of Good Land*. pdf
- Ruether, *The Biblical Vision of the Ecological Crisis*, pdf

Week 3

Beginnings of the American Environmental Imagination

M Oct 10

- Bradford, *A Hideous and Desolate Wilderness*, p. 282-283
- Tocqueville, from *Democracy in America*, p. 186-188
- Crevecoeur, from *Letters from an American Farmer*, p. 680-682
- Emerson, from *Nature*, p. 603-606
- Thoreau, from *Walking*, p. 284-288
- Buell, *The Environmental Imagination: Thoreau, Nature Writing, and the Formation of American Culture*, p. 659-661

W Oct 12

- Muir, from *Save the Redwoods*, p. 188-190
- Muir, from *Hetch Hetchy Valley*, p. 606-608
- Pinchot, from *The Birth of Conservation*, p. 13-16
- Marx, from *Sleepy Hollow, 1844*, 656-659

Week 4

The Wilderness Debate

M Oct 17

- Editor's introduction, p. 280-281
- Marshall, from *The Problem of the Wilderness*, p. 288-292
- Nash, from *The Value of Wilderness*, p. 292-299
- Cronon, *The Trouble with Wilderness: Or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature*, p. 299-305
- Waller, from *Getting Back to the Right Nature: A Reply to Cronon's 'The Trouble with Wilderness'*, p. 305-309

W Oct 19

- Turner, "*In Wildness is the Preservation of the World*," pdf
- Callicott, *The Wilderness Idea Revisited: The Sustainable Development Alternative*, pdf
- Foreman, *Wilderness Areas for Real*, pdf

Week 5

Non-Western Perspectives

M Oct 24

- Hughes and Swam, *How Much of the Earth is Sacred Space?*, pdf
- Bonner, from '*Whose Heritage Is It?*' in *At the Hand of Man*, p. 842-849
- Chief Seattle, from *Chief Seattle's Speech*, p. 571-573

W Oct 26

- Nabhan, *Cultural Parallax in Viewing North American Habitats*, pdf
- La Duke, *Voices from White Earth*, pdf
- Conte, *Creating Wild Places from Domesticated Landscapes*. pdf

****Take Home Midterm Available on Blackboard Oct. 28-30.****

Week 6

The New Ethics of Leopold and Carson

M Oct 31

- Leopold, from *The Fusion of Lines of Thought*, p. 13
- Leopold, from *The Land Ethic* in *A Sand County Almanac*, pdf
- Leopold, from *Thinking Like a Mountain*, in *A Sand County Almanac*, p. 689-691

- Carson, from *And No Birds Sing*, in *Silent Spring*, p. 541-549
- Carson, from *The Real World Around Us*, p. 557-559

20th Century Movements

W Nov 2

- Naess, *The Deep Ecological Movement: Some Philosophical Aspects*, pdf
- Capra, *Deep Ecology: A New Paradigm*, pdf
- Hardin, from *The Tragedy of the Commons*, 805-806
- Snyder, *The Place, The Region, and the Commons*, pdf

Week 7

M Nov 7

- Merchant, from *Gaia: Ecofeminism and the Earth*, p. 616-621
- Bullard, from *Environmental Justice for All*, 766-769
- Soule, *What is Conservation Biology*, p. 391-397

Environmental Issues: Nuclear Power and Water

W Nov 9

- Editor's Introduction, p. 83-90
- Perrow, from *Normal Accidents*, 102-107
- Reisner, from *Cadillac Desert: The American West and its Disappearing Water*, p. 342-348
- Worster, from *Thinking Like a River*, p. 381-386

Week 8

Climate Change

M Nov 14

- Vitousek et al., from *Human Domination of Earth's Ecosystems*, p. 365-372
- Climate Shock, read all selections from p. 17-33

Food

W Nov 16

- Brower, from *The Bt Corn Controversy*, p. 126-131
- Leshner, from *Seeds of Change*, p. 131-137
- Shiva, *Economic Globalization has Become a War Against Nature and the Poor*, p. 274-279
- Manning, from *The Oil We Eat*, p. 426-434

Week 9

M Nov 21

- In class film, *The Garden*. No reading.

W Nov 23

- No class. Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 10

Population

M Nov 28

- Editor's introduction, *Human Population*, p. 807-808
- Malthus, from *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, p. 808-811
- World Commission on Environment and Development, *The Urban Challenge*, p. 315-3119
- Cohen, from *How Many People Can the Earth Support?*, p. 827-829

Brave New World

W Nov 30

- Orr, *Is Conservation Education an Oxymoron?*, p. 875-878
- White, *Are You an Environmentalist or Do You Work for a Living?*, p. 879-884
- UN Convention on Environment and Development, from *Earth Charter*, p. 884-885
- Speth, from *Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of Global Environment; A Citizen's Agenda for Action*, p. 885-888

****Take Home Final Exam Available on Blackboard Dec. 5-7.****

Grading

8 weekly quizzes, 40%

Midterm, 30%

Final, 30%