

Nandorfy–ENGL 6811: Topics in Colonial, Postcolonial and Diasporic Literatures.

Environmental Literature and Ecocriticism

This course will focus on Canadian, American, and Australian contemporary Environmental Literature as well as Anthropocene Fiction that combines Climate and Science Fiction, and Donna Haraway's challenge to this term with her own: Chthulucene. Our study of this literature will be impelled by Adam Trexler's questions: 'How does living in the Anthropocene reconfigure human economies and ecosystems? How does climate change alter the forms and potentialities of art and cultural narrative? Western traditions and theories relating to environmental thinking such as science and Deism, Deep Ecology, Posthumanism, and the idea of Post-Nature (or that nature no longer exists) will be read against Indigenous storytelling about earth justice, and critics like Haraway who story new ways of being with companion species on this damaged Earth. Besides applying these approaches to stories in our critical analyses, we will also explore the emotional impact of climate change, and its myriad implications for young people facing life on a degraded planet where shortages of resources also mean greater inequality and increased violence.

Bibliography:

Atwood, Margaret. *The Year of the Flood* (2009)

Bacigalupi, Paolo. *The Water Knife* (2015)

Bobis, Merlinda. *Locust Girl: A Love Song* (2016)

Casper, Claudia. *The Mercy Journals* (2016)

Kingsolver, Barbara. *Flight Behavior* (2012)

Meyer, Bruce. *Canadian Tales of Climate Change* (2017) (optional)

Wright, Alexis. *The Swan Book* (2016)

Cullen, Heidi. *The Weather of the Future: Heat Waves, Extreme Storms, and Other Scenes From a Climate-Changed Planet* (2010)

Haraway, Donna J. *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene* (2016)

Latour, Bruno. *Facing Gaia: Eight Lectures on the New Climatic Regime* (2017) (optional)

Ordered by library:

Milkoreit, Manjana. 'The Promise of Climate Fiction: Imagination, Storytelling, and the Politics of the Future' in *Reimagining Climate Change*. Wapner, Paul and Hilal Elver eds.

Trexler, Adam. *Anthropocene Fictions: The Novel in a Time of Climate Change*.

Selections from short story anthologies will be posted online as needed.