

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*3870	Course Title: Literature and the Environment	Date of Offering: W24
---------------------------	---	--------------------------

Course Instructor: Aylin Malcolm	Course Format: Lecture
-------------------------------------	---------------------------

Brief Course Synopsis:

This course explores literary depictions of the natural environment in relation to the major ecological issues that we face today. We will engage with two complementary questions: first, how do writers strive to represent natural phenomena that defy conceptualization, from the subjective experiences of a nonhuman animal to global shifts over long timescales? And second, how can literature help us to imagine and work toward environmentally just futures? Our readings will span multiple genres, from novels and memoirs to poetry, graphic fiction, and journalism. We will focus on contemporary writing, but will also read selections of landmark texts in environmental thought from the last few centuries. As we consider the benefits and limitations of different genres, students will have opportunities to put theory into practice through both critical and creative responses to our discussions. Topics to be considered will likely include climate change, petroculture, human/animal relations, racial justice, apocalypticism, gender and sexuality, and public health.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Journal of critical and creative responses: 30%
Short essays: 2 x 20%
Final exam: 30%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Kate Beaton, *Ducks*
Allison Cobb, *Plastic: An Autobiography*
Amitav Ghosh, *Gun Island*
Helen Macdonald, *H is for Hawk*
Ruth Ozeki, *My Year of Meats*
Tommy Pico, *Nature Poem*

This list of texts is provisional; please contact the instructor for an updated list if you would like to get started on reading. Other materials will be posted on CourseLink.

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/distance/in-person/other details):

In person

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.