

## 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*4240	Course Title: Premodern Ecologies	Date of Offering: F23
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Course Instructor:	Course Format: seminar
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#### Brief Course Synopsis:

This course explores representations of the natural world before 1700, focusing on some of the most influential writers of medieval and early modern England. We will consider how these writers thought about nonhuman life and conceptualized drastic environmental transformations during this period, including climate change, disease, shifts in land use, and the growth of cities. To contextualize these texts, we will touch on major developments in premodern natural science and on the literatures of continental Europe and the Middle East. We will also reflect on how premodern literature can inform our views of current ecological issues, for which we will draw on recent scholarship in the environmental humanities. No prior experience with any of this material is expected or required.

#### Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Close reading (500 words): 10%  
Article analysis (500 words): 10%  
Abstract and annotated bibliography: 15%  
Seminar presentation: 15%  
Research essay (4500–5000 words): 35%  
Participation: 15%

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

*Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (ed. Battles)  
*The Book of John Mandeville* (ed. Kohanski and Benson)  
*The Lais of Marie de France* (ed. Waters)  
William Shakespeare, *King Lear* (ed. Mowat and Werstine)  
Margaret Cavendish, *The Blazing-World* (ed. Mendelson)

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

Medieval and Early Modern

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

\*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>.