

COURSE CONTENT

Course Code & Title	:	HL4013 Advanced Studies in Literature & Culture: Ecocritical Approaches to Literature (Category F: Specific Interest Subjects)
Academic Unit	:	4 AU
Pre-requisite	:	HL1001

Course Description

This module examines some pressing issues in Ecocriticism, a growing field which studies the relationship between literature and the physical environment. We will study two “postcolonial” texts that raise important social justice and existential considerations (Sinha, Ghosh), a “Sci-Fi” text which envisions systemic change needed to stem socio-ecological degradation (Le Guin), and a satirical text that explores the cultural politics of climate (McEwan). The texts are used to examine the tensions and antinomies underpinning contemporary environmental debates and praxis. Among other things, we will examine frameworks and perspectives such as climate-change denialism, reform environmentalism (eco-modernization), anthropocentrism, the nature/culture dualism critiqued by eco-feminists, trans-corporeality, the “wilderness” ideal, “the environmentalism of the poor,” and indigenous sustainability. The module encourages a reassessment of the conceptual oppositions and social cum ecological hierarchies that affect environments and habitats.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will read four important novels in the field and use close reading skills to discuss the issues raised therein. Major writers will be covered.
2. Students will engage *some* important topics and issues in green cultural studies.

Content

Course Outline

Weeks	Text/topic	Readings	<u>Misc / Readings</u>
01	Introduction		References: 1. Something New Under the Sun: An Environmental History

			of the 20 th Century (John McNeill) (2000) 2. Feminism and the Mastery of Nature (Val Plumwood) (1993)
02	Animal's People		
03	Animal's People		
04	Solar		
05	Solar		
06	Essay Consultation		Online
07	The Dispossessed		
	RECESS [30 Sept to 4 Oct]		
08	The Dispossessed		
09	The Hungry Tide		Essay Draft Due
10	The Hungry Tide		
11	Peer Review		Peer Review Due
12	Group Presentations		
13	Summary		

Learning Outcome

Students will obtain an introduction to green cultural studies and its major concerns and debates.

Student Assessment

Students will be assessed by:

Term paper	30%
Presentation and participation	15%
Peer Review	15%
Exam	<u>40%</u>
Total	<u>100%</u>

The required word count for the term paper (essay) is around 2,000 words.

NB: Students are NOT ALLOWED to use Generative AI (artificial intelligence) platforms when writing their assessments.

Textbooks/References

A. The primary readings are:

1. *Animal's People*, (2009), by Indra Sinha
2. *Solar*, (2010), by Ian McEwan
3. *The Dispossessed*, (1974), by Ursula K. Le Guin
4. *The Hungry Tide*, (2004), by Amitav Ghosh

B. Secondary readings include excerpts and ideas taken from below:

1. Stacy Alaimo – *Bodily Natures* (2010)
2. Carolyn Merchant – *The Death of Nature* (1990)
3. Rob Nixon – *Slow Violence and The Environmentalism of the Poor* (2011)
4. William Cronon – “The Trouble with Wilderness; Or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature.” (1996)
5. Alf Hornborg – “How to Turn An Ocean Liner: A Proposal for Voluntary Degrowth by Redesigning Money for Sustainability, Justice, and Resilience,” (2017)