

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 start with two well-known communalist “green utopias” by Le Guin and Robinson, move on to a provocative use of satire to explore the cultural politics of climate (McEwan) and close with two “postcolonial” ecocritical texts that raise important social justice considerations (Sinha and Ghosh). The texts are used to examine the tensions and antinomies underpinning contemporary environmental debates and ecocritical practice. Among other things, we will examine frameworks and perspectives such as reform environmentalism, anthropocentrism, biocentrism (deep ecology), and downshifting. The module encourages a reassessment of the conceptual oppositions and social hierarchies that affect environments and habitats.

Learning Objectives

1. Students will read five novels in the field and use close reading skills to discuss the issues raised therein. Major writers in the field will be covered.
2. Students will engage *some* important topics and issues in green cultural studies, viz.: general features of ecocritical practice and ecological utopian fiction, anthropocentrism versus biocentrism, global “risk society,” and environmental ethics.

Content

Course Outline

Weeks	Text/topic	Readings	Misc
01	Introduction		We will watch/discuss excerpts of documentary titled “Affluenza”

02	The Dispossessed		
03	The Dispossessed		
04	Pacific Edge		
05	Pacific Edge		
06	Solar		
07	Solar		
	RECESS		
08	Animal's People		
09	Animal's People		
10	The Hungry Tide		
11	The Hungry Tide		
12	Summary		

Learning Outcome

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

Student Assessment

Students will be assessed by:

One written assignment	30%
Class presentation & participation	20%
Final Examination	<u>50%</u>
	<u>100%</u>

An essay of around 2,200 words is required for the written assignment component of the course.

NOTE -- Both soft and hard copies of the essay must be submitted.

Textbooks/References

A. The primary readings are:

1. The Dispossessed, (1974), by Ursula K. Le Guin
2. Pacific Edge, (1990), by Kim Stanley Robinson
3. Solar, (2010), by Ian McEwan
4. Animal's People, (2009), by Indra Sinha
5. The Hungry Tide, (2004), by Amitav Ghosh

B. Secondary readings will be confirmed later.