



A M B R O S E

EN 420 Ecocriticism (3)

Fall 2007

Instructor: Dr. Tim Heath

Office: Room 511

Class Times: T/Th 4:00-5:15

E-mail Address: theath@ambrose.edu

Office Phone: 571-2550 ext. 5904

Class Location: Room 501

Office Hours: T/Th 2:30 to 4:00 or by appointment

Required Texts

Abbey, Edward. *Desert Solitaire*. Ballantine Books. (0345326490)

Armbruster, Karla and Kathleen R. Wallace. *Beyond Nature Writing: Expanding the Boundaries of Ecocriticism*. Scholarly Book Services. (0813920140)

Cook, Meira. Ed. *Field Marks: The Poetry of Don McKay*. Wilfred Laurier UP. (0889204942)

Lopez, Barry. *Arctic Dreams*. Vintage. (0375727485)

McFarlane, Robert. *Mountains of the Mind*. Vintage. (0375714065)

Rowe, Stan. *Earth Alive: Essays on Ecology*. Newest. (1897126034)

Note: the instructor will supplement texts with class handouts as needed.

Course Description

Ecocriticism approaches literature to study the relationship between humans and the non-human. Although this last category might be expressed as the physical environment or creation, defining ecocriticism as a means of examining our relationship to that which is not human foregrounds the need to analyze critically the term “human” itself to understand the values, assumptions, and actions that characterize our treatment of the world in which we live. Ecocriticism, then, is much more than a vogue that responds to a broadly felt and articulated set of environmental concerns associated particularly with the last five decades of human history. Rather, ecocriticism serves as a fitting means not merely to read differently, but also to think differently about ourselves and the ways that we represent ourselves, the environment, and the non-human. As this last sentence implies, thought entails action, so this course examines also the politics at work in ecocriticism.

Course Objectives

- to examine the depth and breadth of ecocriticism
- to examine the strengths and weaknesses of ecocriticism
- to apply ecocriticism to canonical literary texts and to lesser known literary genres
- to examine mindfully “what is man?”

- to examine the intersection of literary inquiry with other disciplines such as ecology and philosophy

Course Schedule

September	Th 6	Introduction
	T 11	humans and the non-human; Hilbert, “Beyond” in <i>Beyond</i>
	Th 13	<i>Arctic Dreams</i> ; Horne, “Samuel Johnson” in <i>Beyond</i>
	T 18	<i>Arctic Dreams</i> ; Raglon and Scholtmeijer, “Heading Off” in <i>Beyond</i>
	Th 20	Community Day, no classes
	T 25	<i>Arctic Dreams</i>
	Th 27	<i>Arctic Dreams</i>
October	T 2	<i>Mountains of the Mind</i>
	Th 4	<i>Mountains of the Mind</i>
	T 9	<i>Mountains of the Mind</i>
	Th 11	Rowe, “For the Beauty of the Earth” (41-80)
	T 16	Rowe, “The Ecology of Cities” (81-113) ESSAY 1 due
	Th 18	Rowe, “Homo Ecologicus” (115-140)
	T 23	Community Day—no class
	Th 25	Rowe, “What on Earth is Life?” MIDTERM EXAM
T 30	<i>Desert Solitaire</i> ; Rowe, “A Manifesto for Earth” (251)	
November	Th 1	<i>Desert Solitaire</i>
	T 6	<i>Desert Solitaire</i>
	Th 8	Critical Response
	T 13	<i>Field Marks</i>
	Th 15	<i>Field Marks</i>
	T 20	<i>Field Marks</i>
	Th 22	Critical Response
	T 27	Critical Response ESSAY 2 due
Th 29	Critical Response	
December	T 4	Critical Response
	Th 6	Critical Response
	T 11	Review: Lopez, McFarlane, McKay, Abbey,

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Students should do all the prescribed readings before class and be prepared to participate in class discussion because I expect lively discussions.
2. Assignments are due on the dates specified. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless extenuating circumstances can be shown.
3. To receive a passing grade in the course, all assignments, quizzes, and exams must be submitted to the instructor.
4. Plagiarism in any of its forms will not be tolerated.

5. Students may not submit work done for another class.
6. Students are responsible for all the information given in class and also for any changes to the syllabus announced in class.
7. Grading:

Essay 1	15%
Essay 2	25%
Mid-term	20%
Critical response 1	15%
Critical response 2	15%
Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100

Final grades for the course appear as letter grades. The table below shows the percentage equivalents for each letter grade.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A+	96-100
A	91-95
A-	86-90
B+	82-85
B	75-81
B-	72-74
C+	68-71
C	63-67
C-	60-62
D+	59-59
D	50-55
F	0-49

Important Notes

Last day to drop or add a course without permission: **15 September**

Last day to withdraw with tuition refund: **15 September**

Last day to withdraw or change to audit without penalty: **15 November**

Last day request revised time for final exam: **5 December**

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of as are stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar.

Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final

examination period unless they have received permission for a “Course Extension.” Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar’s Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise “due to circumstances beyond the student’s control.”

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean. Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.