

North Hennepin Community College

ENGL 2340: Nature in Literature

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: *.*

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts, Goal 10 - People/Environment

This course surveys literature that examines the relation between human beings and the natural world as that relationship has been variously conceived by British, American, and other writers. The literary works studied may begin with the pastoral poetry of the English Renaissance and focus on literature from the late eighteenth-century, nineteenth century, and contemporary works. The primary consideration of this course is on how a literary idea of nature has been affected and effected by variations in culture, namely, changes in politics, economics, and technology that in diverse cultural and historical contexts have created conflicts between ecological and human interests. Ultimately this study leads to considering how the "green language" created by the writers under study has contributed to an eco-critical ethic that allows examination of current ecological sensibilities and the language that represents them.

The course may also engage oriental literature, for many American and British authors have aligned their thinking on nature with eastern religions. Additionally, the content will reference painters, philosophers, and composers whose works contribute a relevant understanding of nature-as they may lead into relevant scientific considerations of nature.

Prerequisite: Engl 1201

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 08/25/2008 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. This course may include selected essays, plays, poems, short stories, or novels that reveal perspectives on nature held by British and American authors from the late sixteenth-century to the present.
2. The primary consideration of this course is on how a literary idea of nature has been affected and effected by variations in culture, namely, changes in politics, economics, and technology that in diverse cultural and historical contexts have created conflicts between ecological and human interests.
3. Ultimately this study leads to considering how the green language created by the writers under study has contributed to an eco-critical ethic that allows examination of current ecological sensibilities and the language that represents them.
4. The course may also engage oriental literature, for many American and British authors have aligned their thinking on nature with eastern religions.
5. Additionally, the content will reference painters, philosophers, and composers whose works contribute a relevant understanding of nature as they may lead into relevant scientific considerations of nature.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. How canonical literature incorporates the natural world in various ways that show humans have a profound, long standing connection to the natural world. (MnTC G2, comps. a, c, d; MnTC G6, comps. a, b, c, e; MnTC G10, comps. a, b, c)
2. A deeper understanding of the complex interrelationship that exists between the human imagination and the natural world and how that interrelationship has changed over time in ways that indicate the interrelationship needs to be continually negotiated. (MnTC G2, comps. a, b, c, d; MnTC G6, comps. c, e; MnTC G10, comps. a, b, d, f)
3. A vocabulary of words and ideas that helps them articulate that interrelationship as well as discern how others perceive it. (MnTC G2, comps. a, b, c, d; MnTC G6, comps. c, e; MnTC G10, comps. a, b, d, f)
4. Their own aesthetic view of nature, drawing on the primary content of the course and secondary sources of the works studied and apply that understanding to address a current environmental issue. (MnTC G2, comps. a, b, c, d; MnTC G6, comps. a, b, c, e ; MnTC G10, comp. f)

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 10 - People/Environment

1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
3. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.
4. Articulate and defend the actions they would take on various environmental issues.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted