Introduces students to the tradition of American environmental literature dating from Transcendentalism through realist and experimental contemporary literary texts. Students will study key terms and concepts related to the environment such as anthropocentrism, bioregionalism, eco-cosmopolitanism, environmental justice, deep ecology, and posthumanism. They will apply them to different literary genres toward developing critical analyses and environmental readings. Approved for arts and sciences core curriculum: literature and the arts.


The above required books are available at the CU Bookstore.

**Required Readings on Canvas**
- Excerpts from Thoreau’s *Walden* and “Ktaadn.”
- [from] Laurence Buell, *The Environmental Imagination*.
- [from] Douglass, *Narrative of the Life*.
- [from] *The Cherokee Removal*.
- Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron.”
- [from] W.E.B. Dubois *The Souls of Black Folk*.
- H.P. Lovecraft “From Beyond.”
- Margonelli, “Why We Should Drop the 'Mad Max' Metaphors.”
- Bacigalupi, “The Tamarisk Hunter.”

The above required texts are available as PDFs through Canvas. **Students are responsible for accessing and retrieving these texts, as well as for having access to them (in electronic or hardcopy format) during class.**

**Required Films [Streamed via Canvas]**
- *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2016), Dir. George Miller; 120 Minutes.

The above required film is available streaming through Canvas. Students are responsible for accessing and watching this film.

**Books on Reserve at Library**
- Millet, *How the Dead Dream*.

**Grading, Assignments, Expectations, and E-mail Policy**
Assignments

I will provide guidelines for the assignments as they approach. If you require assistance understanding particular readings or class discussions, and/or if you require assistance planning, organizing and/or analyzing while writing or preparing to write an assignment please either stop by my office hours or make an appointment. I am always happy to help you if you require assistance with your assignments, or if you have questions or concerns about the class. I am also happy to look at drafts of assignments during office hours; I cannot, however, review or comment on drafts via e-mail.

Grade Distribution
Exams 1-3: 45% (15% each).
Short Papers 1-2: 30% (15% each).
Participation: 7.5%.*
Presentation: 7.5%.
Final Take Home Exam: 10%.
*Please see the “Participation” section below for an explanation of the participation requirements for the course.

Due Dates/Late Work
Assignments are due as indicated on the course schedule. No late work can be accepted. Any work not received by the deadline will automatically receive an F. Please contact me at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline if you need to request an extension. Extensions will be considered on a case by case basis. If you encounter extenuating circumstances (e.g. a medical or family emergency the day a paper is due) please contact me A.S.A.P and I will work with you. All papers must be uploaded to the appropriate Canvas dropbox by the deadline; it is your responsibility to ensure that you have adequate time and resources (i.e. enough time before the deadline to find a reliable computer and internet connection) to submit your assignment on time. A computer issue is not a legitimate excuse for failing to turn in an assignment.

Attendance and Participation
This course depends upon your contributions to class discussion. You are expected to attend class regularly, on time, and prepared. You are permitted four absences for any reason (for illness, family travel, a day off, weddings, funerals, etc.). After a fourth absence, each subsequent absence—excepting religious holidays and documented sports leaves—will lower your final letter grade by one step (e.g. B+ to B). Routine tardiness will count as one absence. If you miss a class, you are responsible for catching up on what you missed. Consult first with a classmate on announcements and notes. Please note: I will post your number of missed classes to Canvas so that you can keep track; please speak with me if you think there is a mistake regarding your attendance. It is your responsibility to keep track of your attendance. You also must remember to sign the attendance sheet; this is vital, as it is the record that will be used to verify your presence in class.

Preparedness is a requirement of this course. Accordingly, you are expected to bring your texts to class and be ready to demonstrate that you have done the assigned reading—failure to do so may result in an unexcused absence. Your participation grade will reflect the quality of your contributions in class, respect shown to class members, your engagement with class activities, and evidence of consistent completion of reading assignments.
There will be frequent in-class group writing exercises that will make up a significant proportion of your participation grade. Except in the cases of classes missed for documented sports leaves and religious holidays, any exercise you miss will result in your being assessed a “0/10” for that exercise. There are no make-ups for missed exercises. Your lowest two exercise grades will be dropped.

**Electronic Device Policy**

Phones must be silenced (including vibrate) and stowed during class. You may use a laptop, tablet, e-reader, or other appropriate electronic device, but you are expected to do so responsibly. **Irresponsible use of electronic devices is distracting to other students and detracts from your own engagement in class.** Accordingly, using your electronic device for non-class related activities during class (i.e. texting, checking e-mail, using social media, surfing the web, etc.) will result in your being assessed an unexcused absence for that class. In addition, I reserve the right to revise this policy or limit individual and/or class use of electronic devices as I deem necessary.

**Student E-mail Policy**

All students at CU-Boulder receive an e-mail account from the university that is an official means of sending information to students. Students are responsible for maintaining this CU e-mail address. The university’s policy states that “faculty may determine how e-mail will be used in their classes . . . Faculty may expect that students' official e-mail addresses are being accessed, and faculty may use e-mail for their courses accordingly.” For this course I will use e-mail to contact you and to provide you with course related information. Accordingly, I expect you to check your CU e-mail on a daily basis. For more information: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-e-mail-policy.

**Semester Schedule**

- X = text/film on course’s Canvas site; AE= reading in American Earth.
- Please read the full selection for an American Earth author unless otherwise noted—this includes the headnote.

NOTE: This schedule is subject to change at my discretion. New written instructions from me regarding the course’s schedule take precedence over this schedule. As necessary, I will post updated course schedules to the course’s Canvas site.

Aug. 28 Introduction
30. Thoreau, Excerpts from *Walden* and “Ktaadn” [X]; Henry David Thoreau, pp. 2-37 [AE].

6 [from] Douglass, *Narrative of the Life* [X]; [from] *The Cherokee Removal* [X]; Susan Fenimore Cooper, pp. 48-59 [AE]; Sarah Orne Jewett, “A White Heron” [X].

18 Exam 1.

27 Aldo Leopold, pp. 266-95 [AE]; Rachel Carson, pp. 366-77 [AE];
28 **Short Paper 1 Due by 5:00pm.**

Oct. 2 Lynn White Jr., 405-13 [AE]; Edward Abbey, pp. 413-34 [AE].

9 Exam 2.
11 N. Scott Momaday, pp. 570-82 [AE]; Leslie Marmon Silko, pp. 582-90 [AE]; William Cronon, pp. 632-59 [AE].
16 Annie Dillard, pp. 531-50 [AE]; E. O. Wilson, pp. 671-90 [AE].

**18 No Class Meeting**

23 César Chávez, pp. 690-96 [AE]; Terry Tempest Williams, pp. 739-60 [AE]; Linda Hogan, pp. 809-15 [AE].

30 Wes Jackson, pp. 595-609 [AE]; Michael Pollan, pp. 948-61 [AE].

6 Exam 3

13 Millet, *How the Dead Dream*, Ch. 4-6.

**16 Short Paper 2 Due at 5:00pm**

20 No Class: Fall/Thanksgiving Break.
22 No Class: Fall/Thanksgiving Break.

27 Film: *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2016) [X]; Margonelli, “Why We Should Drop the 'Mad Max' Metaphors.”
29 Paolo Bacigalupi, “The Tamarisk Hunter” [X].

**Dec. 4 Presentations.**
6 Presentations.
11 Presentations.
13 Presentations.

12/19 Take-Home-Final-Exam Due at 5:00pm.

**University and Other Policies**

**Accommodation for Disabilities**
If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions under the Students tab on the Disability Services website and discuss your needs with your professor.

**Religious Holidays**
Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Please see me if you need to discuss conflicts with class times or exams due to religious observances. See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.

**Classroom Behavior**
Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct.

**Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation**
The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. CU’s Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulder’s Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to
assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the OIEC website.

Honor Code and Plagiarism
All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office website.

The work you do for this course must be original to this class. That work must also properly cite any references you make to others’ words and ideas; failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense. If you are having trouble with ideas for a paper or have questions about citations, please visit my office hours and I will be happy to help you. “Not knowing” is not an excuse for plagiarizing. I am obligated to report all instances of plagiarism and academic dishonesty to the Honor Code Council, which will review the case. Any assignment found to include plagiarized material automatically receives an F. More than one instance of plagiarism will result in failure of the class. I may increase the penalty for a first offense, even to failure for the course. Submitted papers will be scanned using an anti-plagiarism program in Canvas.