

OHLONE COLLEGE
Ohlone Community College District
OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE

I. Description of Course:

1. **Department/Course:** ENGL - 122
2. **Title:** Environmental Literature
3. **Cross Reference:**
4. **Units:** 3
Lec Hrs: 3
Lab Hrs:
Tot Hrs: 54.00
5. **Repeatability:** No
6. **Grade Options:** Letter Grade, May
Petition for Pass/No Pass (GP)

7. **Degree/Applicability:**
Credit, Degree Applicable, Transferable
- CSU (T)
8. **General Education:**
9. **Field Trips:** May be Required
10. **Requisites:**
Advisory
Eligible for English 101A.

12. Catalog Description:

This course is a survey of environmental writing reflecting the changing relationship between humans and their environment through time. Readings will cover a range of eras and philosophies, including Native American creation tales, narratives from the Age of Conquest, poetry and fiction from the Romantic Era, early environmental essays from the 19th and 20th centuries, and current environmental writing. Students will read a variety of literary and non-fiction texts from Thoreau, Muir, Leopold, Stegner, Carson, Abbey, Pollan, and others.

13. Class Schedule Description:

Environmental writing from Native American creation tales to Thoreau, Muir, Carson, Abbey, Pollan, and others.

14. Counselor Information:

This course will require students to read and write at the college level. The focus is primarily literary, but some focus will be on environmental issues, both historical and current. This course can augment a student's study of environmental science, history, or literature.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

The student will:

1. Demonstrate familiarity with the various changes in relationship between humans and their environment that are reflected in literary and non-fiction texts through time.
2. Analyze a variety of literary texts in relation to one or more environmental themes reflected in the texts.
3. Identify key literary and environmental figures that have contributed to the body of environmental writing and movements through time.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with key environmental events that have shaped the environmental movement and its reflection in literature through time.

III. Course Outline:

- A. Introduction
 - 1. Overview of U.S. Environmentalism/Key Events and Figures
 - 2. Ecocriticism
 - 3. Elements of Fiction/Non-Fiction Texts
- B. Living in Harmony with the Earth/Earth as Provider
 - 1. Native American Creation Tales
 - 2. Oral Tradition
- C. Conquest of the Earth/The Age of Discovery/First Contact
 - 1. Exploration Narratives
 - 2. Colonial Era Journals and Memoirs
- D. The Industrial Revolution/Age of Anxiety
 - 1. The Gothic Novel
- E. The Romantics/In Awe of Nature
 - 1. Romantic Era Poetry
- F. American Transcendentalists
 - 1. Ralph Waldo Emerson
 - 2. Henry David Thoreau
- G. Early Naturalists and Environmentalists/Cataloguing Nature
 - 1. Charles Darwin
 - 2. John James Audubon
- H. Industrialism Run Amok
 - 1. Novel as Social Commentary
- I. Conservation vs. Preservation/The Wilderness Ethic
 - 1. John Muir
 - 2. Aldo Leopold
- J. A New Awakening/Eco-Defense/Grassroots Activism
 - 1. Rachel Carson
 - 2. Wallace Stegner
 - 3. David Brower
 - 4. Edward Abbey
 - 5. Lois Gibbs
- K. Conflicting Responses to Modern Problems
 - 1. Science Fiction
- L. The New Millennium/Green Consciousness
 - 1. Bill McKibben
 - 2. Michael Pollan
 - 3. Al Gore

IV. **Course Assignments:**

A. Reading Assignments

- 1. Weekly readings from assigned literary and non-fiction texts.

B. Projects, Activities, and other Assignments

- 1. In-Class Research Presentation on an author or environmental issue reflected in a literary text, or on a key environmental movement or figure.
- 2. Field trip to a natural park outside of the city limits or to a Natural History museum

or visitor's center connected to a park; students will be required to do a write-up in response to their experience (poem, short essay, personal response, etc.)

C. Writing Assignments

1. Weekly reading journal, in short essay format, responding to a literary text or non-fiction essay on an environmental theme, or on a key environmental movement or figure.
2. Write-up from field trip (poem, short essay, personal response, etc.), reflecting on their experience in nature.

V. **Methods of Evaluation/Assessment:**

- A. Weekly reading journal responding to a literary or non-fiction text on an environmental theme, or a key environmental movement or figure.
- B. Research Presentation on an author or environmental issue reflected in a literary text, or on a key environmental movement or figure.
- C. Midterm In-Class Essay analyzing a literary or non-fiction text on an environmental theme, or on a key environmental movement or figure represented in a text.
- D. Final Take-Home Essay synthesizing one or more literary or non-fiction texts and environmental themes covered during the semester, and relating these to one or more key environmental movements or figures.
- E. Write-up from field trip (poem, short essay, or personal response).

VI. **Methods of Instruction:**

- A. Lecture
- B. Discussion
- C. Demonstration
- D. Audiovisual
- E. Computer Assisted Instruction
- F. Collaborative Learning

VII. **Textbooks:**

Recommended

1. Abbey, Edward *The Monkey Wrench Gang* Paperback Edition, Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2006 ISBN: 0061129766
2. Abbey, Edward *Desert Solitaire* Paperback Edition, Touchstone, 1990 ISBN: 0671695886
3. Anderson, Lorraine *Literature and the Environment* 1st, Paperback Edition, Longman, 1999 ISBN: 032101149X
4. Cabeza de Vaca, Alvar Nunez *The Narrative of Cabeza de Vaca* Paperback Edition, University of Nebraska Press, 2003 ISBN: 0-803-26416-X
5. Callenbach, Ernest *Ecotopia* Paperback Edition, Bantam, 1990 ISBN: 0553348477
6. Cameron, Anne *Daughters of Copper Woman* New Paperback Edition, Harbour Publishing, 2002 ISBN: 1-55017-245-X
7. Carson, Rachel *Silent Spring* New Title Paper Edition, Barron's Educational Series, 2004 ISBN: 0764128677
8. Dick, Philip K. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* Paperback Edition, Del Rey, 1996 ISBN: 0345404475
9. Dillard, Annie *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* Paperback Edition, Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2007 ISBN: 0061233323
10. Dobring, Sydney I. *Saving Place* 1st, Paperback Edition,

- McGraw-Hill/Humanities/Social Sciences/Languages, 2004 ISBN: 0767413245
11. Finch, Robert *The Norton Book of Nature Writing* Paperback Edition, W.W. Norton, 2002 ISBN: 0-393-94634-7
 12. Glotfelty, Cheryl *The Ecocriticism Reader* Paperback Edition, University of Georgia Press, 1996 ISBN: 0820317810
 13. Jenseth, Richard *Constructing Nature* Paperback Edition, Prentice Hall, 1996 ISBN: 0132908751
 14. Kingsolver, Barbara *Prodigal Summer* Paperback Edition, Harper Perennial, 2001 ISBN: 0060959037
 15. Leopold, Aldo *A Sand County Almanac* Paperback Edition, Ballantine Books, 1986 ISBN: 0345345053
 16. McKibben, Bill *American Earth* 1st, Paperback Edition, Library of America, 2008 ISBN: 1598530208
 17. Muir, John *Essential Muir* Paperback Edition, Heyday Books, 2006 ISBN: 1597140279
 18. Pollan, Michael *Botany of Desire* 1st, Paperback Edition, Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2002 ISBN: 0375760393
 19. Pollan, Michael *The Omnivore's Dilemma* Paperback Edition, Penguin Classics, 2007 ISBN: 0143038583
 20. Shakespeare, William *The Tempest* Paperback Edition, W.W. Norton, 2003 ISBN: 0-393-97819-2
 21. Shelley, Mary *Frankenstein* 2nd, Paperback Edition, Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000 ISBN: 0-312-19126-X
 22. Sinclair, Upton *The Jungle* Paperback Edition, Penguin Classics, 2006 ISBN: 014303958X
 23. Thoreau, Henry David *Walden and Other Writings* Paperback Edition, Modern Library, 2000 ISBN: 0679783342

Supplemental

VIII. Supplies:

CID 3145