

## EVE 534 Readings and Research in Environmental Concerns

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Fall 2003  
Tuesday 5:00-7:30 pm  
Jennings Hall 335

### Course Description:

A large body of literature has developed during the last 100 years or so, the majority of it focusing on nature, environmental concerns, and human relationships. This literature includes essays, fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and research articles. Environmental literature has often been responsible for promoting a societal response. Such works as Rachael Carson's *Silent Spring*, Henry David Thoreau's, *Walden Pond*, Aldo Leopold's, *Sand County Almanac*, and Edward Abbey's *Desert Solitaire* have often been cited as impetus for change. In this course students will be responsible for reading and critiquing a variety of environmental writings. Although it is impossible to do a comprehensive study of environmental literature in one semester, this course will provide students with a broad range of reading experiences, discussion and reflection of readings, as well as the opportunity to identify an author and present that author's work to the class.

### Objectives:

- 1) To help students understand literature's influence on environmental issues;
- 2) To enable students to identify major environmental authors and their contribution to the field;
- 3) To become aware of how the evolution of environmental writing is related to societal/environmental issues; and
- 4) To help students develop a personal, environmental cause which they can deepen and strengthen through additional experiences.

During this course students will:

- 1) Read, discuss and do presentations on a variety of environmental literature;
- 2) Critique written and presented information; and
- 3) Participate in a discussion group on an environmental issue or publication.

### **Requirements and Grading:**

- |    |                             |     |
|----|-----------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Class discussions, readings | 50% |
| 2. | Class author presentation   | 35% |
| 3. | Journal critique            | 15% |

Students are expected to complete the required readings prior to the class meeting and be prepared to discuss the major themes in the chapters. Student participation in class discussions is a major factor in determining the final grade in this course. Each student is responsible for selecting an environmental author of their choice for discussion in class. Students are expected to read selected works from that author and present to the class a brief biography of the author and discuss the significance of the authors works. Finally, each student will be required to locate and critique an article in an appropriate environmental journal.

### **Required Texts:**

Eric Schlosser. 2001. *Fast Food Nation*. Houghton Mifflin Company. 288 pp. ISBN: 0395977894.

William Cronon. 2003. *Changes in the Land: Indians, Colonists, and the Ecology of New England*. Hill and Wang, New York. 242 pp. ISBN: 0809016346.

Marc Reisner. 1993. *Cadillac Desert: The American West and its Disappearing Water*. Penguin Books, New York. 582 pp. ISBN: 0140178244.

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<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
1	Introduction, Environmental Literacy What does it mean to be environmentally literate	
2	Fast Food Nation Student Journal Presentations	Chapters 1-3
3	Fast Food Nation Student Journal Presentations	Chapters 4-6
4	Fast Food Nation Student Journal Presentations	Chapters 7-9
5	Fast Food Nation Student Journal Presentations	Chapters 10-Epilogue
6	Changes in the Land Student Journal Presentations	Chapters 1-3
7	Changes in the Land Student Journal Presentations	Chapters 4-6
8	Changes in the Land Student Journal Presentations	Chapters 7-8
9	Changes in the Land Student Author Presentations	
10	Cadillac Desert Student Author Presentations	Chapters 1-3
11	Cadillac Desert Student Author Presentations	Chapters 4-6
12	Cadillac Desert Student Author Presentations	Chapters 7-8
13	Cadillac Desert Student Author Presentations	Chapters 9-11
14	Cadillac Desert	Chapters 12-Epilogue

Student Author Presentations

15 Journal/Author Presentations

Final Exam Week

**Suggested Environmental Authors:**

Abbey, Edward	Desert Solitaire - American Southwest
Austin, Mary	Land of Little Rain – California desert and people who live there
Beston, Henry	Outermost House- a year on the beach of Cape Cod
Carson, Rachel	Silent Spring - effect of pesticides on birds/environment
Susan Fenimore Cooper	Rural Hours, distinguished writer and naturalist, nature diary of Cooperstown, 1850
Dillard, Annie	Pilgrim at Tinker Creek – strong religious themes (Pulitzer Prize)
Ehrlich, Paul and/or Anne	The Population Bomb, overpopulation and depletion of natural resources
Gould, Stephen Jay	Ever Since Darwin; Reflections on Natural History, essayist, paleobiologist evolutionary biologist
Krakauer, Jon	Into Thin Air/Into The Wild – mountain climbing
Leopold, Aldo	A Sand County Almanac - conservationist
Lopez, Barry	Arctic Dreams
Matthiessen, Peter	Snow Leopard, National Book Award, travel to remote parts of Nepal, bases majority of writing on his travels
McKibben, Bill	Staff writer for New Yorker, The End of Nature, global warming warning in 1989.
McPhee, John	Coming Into the Country, travels through the state of Alaska, geology of west, new Jersey (pine barrens), relationship of people to nature
Muir, John	The Yosemite – father of our national parks
Nabhan, Gary	Gathering in the Desert – ethnobotanist NAU faculty
Quammen, David	The Song of the Dodo – Outside Magazine extinctions/island biogeography

Shepard, Paul	The Only World We've Got - environmental/ecological philosopher, cultural anthropology, animal behavior
Shiva, Vandana	Tomorrow's Biodiversity, physicist, philosopher, feminist, leading activist against environmental destruction
Teal, Jon & Mildred	Life and Death of a Salt Marsh
Thoreau, Henry David	Walden, Cape Cod, The Maine Woods, writer, thinker, naturalist
Wilson, E.O.	The Ants, On Human Nature, coined term biodiversity, biological basis for social behavior

### **Suggested Environmental Journals**

Adventure

Audubon

Nature

Wildlife Conservation

Science

Environmental Science and Technology

American Scientist

Chemical and Engineering News

E/The Environmental Magazine

Scientific American

National Geographic

National Parks

Mother Earth News

The American Naturalist

Coastal Management

Biocycle

Conservation Biology

Outside Magazine