Administrative Unit: Science Department

Course Prefix and Number: ENVS 272

Course Title: An Introduction to Environmental Literature

Number of Credit Hours: 3  Lecture Hours: 3  Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: This course introduces students to contemporary writing about environmental issues by exposing them to texts dealing with aspects of environmental crisis and policy, to recent first-person nature writing and to novels that examine various ecological visions. Prerequisite: ENGL 112.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): ENGL 112.

Text(s): Textbooks listed are not necessarily the textbooks used in the course:

- Texts discussing environmental ideas:
  - Simple in Means, Rich in Ends, Bill Devall
  - The Practice of the Wild, Gary Snyder
  - Radical Environmentalism, Peter List, ed.
  - The Green Revolution, Kirpatrick Sale
  - Home Economics, Wendell Berry
  - The Voice of the Earth, Theodore Roszak
  - Earth in the Balance, Al Gore
  - The Population Explosion, Paul and Linda Ehrlich
  - Ecological Literacy, David Orr

- Non-fiction prose (‘nature writing’):
  - Desert Solitaire, Edward Abbey
  - Pilgrim at Tinker Creek, Annie Dillard
  - Arctic Dreams or Crossing Open Ground, Barry Lopez
  - Solace of Open Spaces, Gretel Ehrlich
  - First Person Rural, Noel Perrin

- Contemporary ecological novels:
  - Woman on the Edge of Time, Marge Piercy
  - The Fifth Sacred Thing, Starhawk
  - Ecotopia Emerging, Ernest Callenback
  - The Monkey-Wrench Gang, Edward Abbey
  - Clearcut, Bill Hunger
  - Terrarium, Scott Sanders

Course Objectives:

- To identify a range of styles and approaches to current environmental issues.
- To critically analyze claims and ideas.
- To examine the emerging discipline of ecocriticism.

Measurable Learning Outcomes:

- Apply a variety of critical approaches to environmental issues through study of a broad selection of current literature.
• Demonstrate familiarity with a broad selection of environmentalist perspectives.
• Analyze environmental dilemmas and challenges from multiple perspectives in current discourse.
• Demonstrate familiarity with a wide range of literary approaches to environmental concerns.

**Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):**

- “Place”
- Wilderness
- Human Stewardship
- Environmental Crisis
- Activism
- Anthropocentrism vs. biocentrism
- Radical Ecologies
- Utopian/Dystopian Visions

**Recommended maximum class size for this course:** 30

**Library Resources:** Online databases are available at [http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp](http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp). You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

**Prepared by:** Danny Campbell

**Date:** February 3, 2005

**NOTE:** The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

Office of Academic Affairs
12/04