Spring 1-15-1999

ENG 4300-001

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Martone.
English 4300.
Spring, 1999.

Description.

Although we often think of ecology as a modern body of thought, the imagination has always been shaped by the natural world it has variously praised, described and too-often tried to dominate. In this course we will study the tradition of Anglo-American nature writing, its classical origins, 17th century and romantic continuities, its encounter with the industrial world and recent debts to Eastern thought, Native American religion, and feminism. The transformative promise of this literature to change our lives (in the cases of Thoreau, the Nearings, and Ed Abbey, to give only three examples) will be of special importance, for it is exactly here that we see the nature of poetry, the mind of nature, most clearly at work.

Writing for the course will reflect the reading: journal and reflective writing, cultural/literary criticism, creative ventures, even natural science will be accommodated. There will be biweekly explorations in one or another of these formats, as well as a final project.

Texts

Abbey, Desert Solitaire.
——, The Monkey Wrench Gang.
Basho, Back Roads to Far Towns.
Darwin, Voyage of the Beagle.
Merchant, Earthcare.
Muir, A Thousand Mile Walk to the Gulf.
Snyder, No Nature.
Thoreau, The Portable Thoreau.
White, A Natural History of Selborne.
Wordsworth, Poetical Works.

Packet of photocopies.

Requirements and Evaluation.

Journal, short writing assignments, and reports (35% of grade).

Mid-term and final examinations (35% of grade).

Final paper/project (30% of grade).

Regular attendance and participation. I will permit 2 unexcused absences. Thereafter, I will lower your grade by one letter for each class missed.

You must complete all assignments in a timely fashion in order to receive credit for the course.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive accommodations, which I will gladly provide, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.
Schedule.


January 25-29. White, cont’d.

February 1-5. Erasmus Darwin, selections from *The Temple of Nature* (photocopy).

February 8-10. Wordsworth.

February 15-19. Wordsworth, cont’d.

February 22-26. Readings from Wu’s *Romanticism*.

March 1-5. Thoreau, *Walden*.


March 22-26. The view from China: Lao Tzu and T’ang Dynasty poets (photocopies.)


April 12-16. Abbey, *Desert Solitaire* and/or *The Monkey Wrench Gang*.

April 19-23. Ecofeminism. Reports on Griffin, Haraway, etc.

April 26-30. Merchant, *Earthcare*. **Final paper due on April 30.**