ENVS 203: Intro. to Environmental Studies: Humanities
TR 2:00 - 3:20, 182 Lillis (Spring 2008)
CRN: 31933

GTFs

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<th>Jill Jakimetz, <a href="mailto:jjakimetz@uoregon.edu">jjakimetz@uoregon.edu</a></th>
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<td>Office Hours: R 12:00 - 2:00</td>
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COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is a survey of the contribution of humanities disciplines—including cultural studies, intellectual history, literary analysis, religious studies, and philosophy—to understanding the relationship between human beings and the natural environment. Theoretical perspectives covered in the course include the intellectual history of cultural attitudes and perceptions of nature, the role of religion in shaping environmental values, Native American perspectives on the environment, and contemporary radical ecology movements (deep ecology, bioregionalism, and ecofeminism). The last segment of the course examines the contribution of the humanities to current environmental issues: wilderness preservation, the Pacific Northwest salmon crisis, and urban ecology and restoration. This course fulfills the Arts and Letters Group Requirement and is a core course requirement for Environmental Studies and Environmental Science majors (The course must be taken for a grade in order to satisfy ENVS/ESCI major requirements.)

REQUIRED TEXTS
• Leslie Marmon Silko, Ceremony (Penguin Books, 1986)
• The following articles available as PDF files on the Blackboard site for the course:
  - Boshongo creation story
  - Cherokee creation story
  - Genesis, “The Origin of the World and Mankind”
  - Plato, “The Nature of the Soul and its Relation to the Body”
  - Lao Tzu, selections from Tao Te Ching
  - Francis of Assisi, “The Canticle of Brother Sun”
  - René Descartes, “Animals as Automata”
  - Lynn White Jr., “The Historical Roots of our Environmental Crisis”
  - Wendell Berry, “The Gift of Good Land”
  - Lewis Moncreif, “The Cultural Basis of our Environmental Crisis”
  - J. Donald Hughes & Jim Swan, “How much of the Earth is Sacred Space?”
  - Winona LaDuke, “Voices from White Earth”
  - Jim Dodge, “Living By Life: Some Bioregional Theory and Practice”
  - Karen J. Warren, “The Power and Promise of Ecological Feminism”
  - Ursula K. LeGuin, “Newton’s Sleep”
  - Henry David Thoreau, “Walking”
  - Jack Turner, “In Wildness is the Preservation of the World”
  - Dave Foreman, “Wilderness Areas for Real”
  - Stephanie Mills, “Salmon Support”
  - David Abram, “Reciprocity”
  - Sherman Alexie, “The Powwow at the End of the World”
• Additional readings to be announced

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. participation & attendance 10%
2. three take-home essays (10% for 1st; 15% for 2nd and 3rd) 40%
3. midterm and final exam (25% each) 50%
Class Participation/Attendance: You are expected to participate actively in this class, which includes attending the lectures, reading all assigned material prior to class, and participating productively and respectfully in your discussion section. It is your responsibility to document your attendance at each lecture and discussion section by signing an attendance roll for your discussion section. Missing FOUR classes (lecture or discussion) FOR ANY REASON will result in a full grade reduction. An additional full grade reduction will be made for each additional missed class after the fourth. Three late arrivals or early departures will count as one absence. In the event that you will miss four or more classes due to extended illness or university obligations, you must provide verifiable documentation to your discussion leader in order to avoid penalty to your grade. Discussion is crucial to this class, and your discussion leaders and I will do our best to make you feel at ease and welcome to contribute to the conversation. The best way to understand these sometimes difficult and controversial topics is to talk about them with each other, so please feel free to contribute any question, objection, or other thought about the topic at hand when such occurs to you. Although no relevant remark is out of bounds in this class, you will be expected to treat all members of the class with courtesy and respect. The quality and quantity of your participation in the class discussion will be evaluated in assigning 10% of your final course grade. If class preparation or attendance need encouragement, I may choose to institute pop quizzes that will be counted as a portion of the participation grade. Obviously, absences from class will also negatively affect your participation grade.

Take-home essays: Three essays of 900 - 1200 words each (about 3-4 pages) will be required in response to essay questions posted on Blackboard (accessed from the UO homepage or at <https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/>). You must bring essays to your discussion section on the dates specified on the syllabus. Essays should have standard fonts and margins and must be typed, stapled, proofread, double-spaced, and include your name, section, and a word-count on the first page. Essays not meeting these requirements or that are less than the minimum number of words will not be graded. Essays not brought to discussion will be treated as late, and late essays will lose one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late. The first essay will be worth 10% of the final course grade; the two subsequent essays will each be worth 15% of your course grade. Essays will be graded by the GTF for your discussion section.

Midterm and Final Exam: Exams will draw from all material assigned as readings or discussed in class. A list of review terms and concepts will be posted on Blackboard at least one week prior to the exam date. Exams will include a mix of true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer (2-3 sentences) questions. The final will include only material covered after the midterm. Each exam will be worth 25% of the final course grade.

POLICIES
Incompletes and extensions will be given only in the event of documented emergencies.

Retaining copies of all returned work: Please retain the original copy of all work returned to you during the term until the final course grade has been posted. In the event of any question concerning whether grades have been accurately recorded, it is your responsibility to provide these original copies as documentation.

Academic Honesty: Please review and familiarize yourself with the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct regarding academic honesty. You can find a summary in each term’s Schedule of Classes or by the Office of Student Life’s Duck Guide: http://studentlife.uoregon.edu/duck_guide/duckguide.htm. Violations of academic honesty will be met with disciplinary action.

Inclement Weather: It is generally expected that class will meet unless the University is officially closed for inclement weather. If, however, it becomes necessary to cancel class while the University remains open, this will be announced on Blackboard and through the Blackboard email system.

Individual Differences: If you experience difficulty in this course for any reason, please don’t hesitate to consult with me. If you have a disability that may prevent you from fully demonstrating your abilities, you should contact me personally as soon as possible so we can discuss accommodations necessary to ensure your full participation and facilitate your education process. The university offers a wide range of services to support you in your efforts to meet the course requirements, including the following:

- **Academic Learning Services (ALS):** ALS provides numerous resources (including courses, workshops, and tutoring) to help UO students succeed. They work with a diverse student body with a wide range of needs. If you are unsure which resources would work best, they are happy to answer questions and share suggestions. Web: http://als.uoregon.edu – Phone: 541-346-3226.

- **University Counseling and Testing Center (UCTC):** The UCTC provides comprehensive mental health care and testing services to the University of Oregon campus. The primary mission of the UCTC is to provide quality clinical/therapeutic services, psychological testing and assessment, psychoeducational workshops and outreach as well as emergency services. Web: http://www.uoregon.edu/~counsel/ – Phone: 541-346-3227

- **Disability Services (DS):** DS coordinates services, provides advocacy and support to students with documented physical, learning, and psychological disabilities and provides assistance to the general campus community in responding appropriately to requests for accommodations based on disability. Web: http://ds.uoregon.edu/ – Phone: 541-346-1155 TTY: 541-346-1083
| Week 1: 4/1, 4/3 | Introduction to course  
**Traditional Conceptions of the Human-Nature Relation**  
Boshongo creation story  
Cree creation stories  
Genesis, “The Origin of the World and Mankind” |
Lao-Tzu, selections from *Tao Te Ching*  
Francis of Assisi, “The Canticle of Brother Sun”  
Descartes, “Animals as Automata”  
**First Essay Due, 4/10 or 4/11 (in discussion section)** |
| Week 3: 4/15, 4/17 | The Legacy of Christianity  
White, “The Historical Roots of our Environmental Crisis”  
Berry, “The Gift of Good Land”  
Moncrief, “The Cultural Basis of our Environmental Crisis” |
| Week 4: 4/22, 4/24 | Native American Perspectives  
Hughes & Swan, “How much of the Earth is Sacred Space?”  
LaDuke, “Voices from White Earth”  
**Second Essay Due, 4/24 or 4/25 (in discussion section)** |
| Week 5: 4/29, 5/1 | Silko, *Ceremony* (Tuesday: 1-152; Thursday: 153-262) |
| Week 6: 5/6, 5/8 | **MIDTERM EXAM, 5/6**  
Dodge, “Living By Life: Some Bioregional Theory and Practice” |
GUEST LECTURE (5/15): Janet Fiskio, ENVS/English  
Reading for guest lecture: LeGuin, “Newton’s Sleep” |
| Week 8: 5/20, 5/22 | **The Wilderness Debate**  
Thoreau, “Walking”  
Turner, “In Wildness is the Preservation of the World”  
Foreman, “Wilderness Areas for Real”  
**Third Essay Due, 5/22 or 5/23 (in discussion section)** |
| Week 9: 5/27, 5/29 | **Pacific Salmon Restoration**  
Mills, “Salmon Support”  
Abram, “Reciprocity”  
Alexie, “The Powwow at the End of the World” |
| Week 10: 6/3, 6/5 | **Urban Ecology & Restoration**  
GUEST LECTURE (6/3): Shannon Tyman, ENVS  
Reading for guest lecture: TBA  
GUEST LECTURE (6/5): Leslie Ryan, Landscape Architecture  
Reading for guest lecture: TBA |
| Final Exam | Wednesday, 6/11, 1:00 - 3:00 |