COURSE DESCRIPTION

Nature has occupied a privileged place within phenomenology since Husserl's critique of naturalism first cleared the path for an investigation of nature-as-experienced. "Ecophenomenology" brings the insights of the phenomenological tradition and method to bear on issues in contemporary environmental theory. The guiding thread of our investigation will be nature's withdrawal and self-concealment, its paradoxical presentation in absence, as the trace of its autonomous productivity. We first trace this motif through key moments in the tradition: Husserl's return to the lifeworld, Heidegger's investigations of the withdrawal of the earth and the self-concealing revealing of $\phi\theta\omicron\nu\iota\varsigma$, Levinas's descriptions of the elemental and the "there is, and Merleau-Ponty's account of the chiasmic intertwining of humanity and nature. The final weeks explore the implications of nature's resistance and withdrawal for contemporary environmental theory and earth art.

TEXTS

Amanda Boetzkes, *The Ethics of Earth Art* (Minnesota, 2010).

Additional essays and book chapters made available through Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Participation/attendance**: You are expected to participate actively in this course, which includes attending every class, reading all assigned material prior to class, and participating productively and professionally in class discussions. Missing three classes 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 third. Three late arrivals for class will count as one absence. The quality and quantity of your participation in the class discussion will be evaluated in assigning 10% of your final grade.

2. **Weekly course protocols**: Each participant will sign up to take special responsibility for one week of the course. During this week, you will be especially well-prepared to answer questions about the readings and introduce topics for class discussion. At the beginning of the following Monday class, you will read a short (two-page) summary of the previous week's discussions. Your summary will be copied and distributed to the class to create an ongoing record of our progress. Your leadership in discussion and protocol for your week will be the basis for 10% of your final course grade.

3. **Term paper prospectus**: You will submit in the 8th week a prospectus of your final paper with two components: (1) a 2-3 page detailed description of the topic and outline of your proposed argument; and (2) an annotated bibliography of at least five primary or peer-reviewed secondary texts that you intend to consult (in addition to texts assigned for the course). Each annotation should be around one double-spaced page and include a summary of the book or article as well as an indication of its relevance for your project. Your prospectus must receive my approval in order for your final term paper to be accepted. The prospectus will be worth 20% of your final course grade.

4. **Final Term Paper**: Final papers should explore in detail a specific independently-chosen topic or theme related to the course and must include (a) examination of at least five scholarly sources in addition to course texts, and (b) the development of your own original position or critical response. Term papers should be around 12 double-spaced pages and must be stapled, proof-read, and use a standard system of citation (e.g., APA or Chicago). Papers are due on the date scheduled for the final exam, and extensions will be granted only in the case of genuine, documented emergencies. Late papers will lose one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late. Your term paper will count for 60% of your final course grade.
POLICIES

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

Retaining copies of all coursework: Please retain copies of all work submitted and 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 copies as documentation.

Computers and other electronic equipment: Use of electronic equipment, including cell phones, pagers, MP3 players, AND LAPTOP COMPUTERS is prohibited during this class. Exceptions to the prohibition of laptops may be requested from the instructor and will be granted only for legitimate academic reasons. Use of laptops for academic reasons will be monitored throughout the term, and failure to restrict their use to this function will result in the revocation of any laptop privileges.

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 (the usual punishment is an "F" for the course).

Inclement Weather: It is generally expected that class will meet unless the University is officially closed for inclement weather. If 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:

- **University Teaching and Learning Center (TLC):** TLC 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://tlc.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://counseling.uoregon.edu/dnn/ – Phone: 541-346-3227

- **Accessible Education Center (AEC):** The AEC is dedicated to facilitating and supporting accessible education through active collaboration with students, faculty, staff, and the community. The AEC works to create and sustain physical, curricular, and informational environments that are informed by and responsive to the diverse characteristics and experiences of students with disabilities and variations of ability. Web: http://aec.uoregon.edu/ – Phone: 541-346-1155
| Week 1: 9/25, 9/27 | Introduction to the Course  
Phenomenology as Tradition & Method | Moran, Introduction to Phenomenology, 1-22  
Sokolowski, Introduction to Phenomenology, 8-65, 146-55 |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Week 2: 10/2, 10/4 | What is Ecophenomenology? | James, *The Presence of Nature*, 1-37  
Llewelyn, *Seeing Through God*, 1-19  
Wood, “What is Ecophenomenology?” |
| Week 3: 10/9, 10/11 | Rediscovering the Lifeworld | Husserl, “Foundational Investigations of the  
Phenomenological Origin of the Spatiality of Nature”  
Husserl, *The Crisis of European Sciences*, 21-59,  
68-73, 121-147  
Husserl, “Philosophy as Rigorous Science” |
Naess, “Ecosophy and Gestalt Ontology”  
Merleau-Ponty, *The Structure of Behavior*, 129-224 |
Merleau-Ponty, *Phenomenology of Perception*, 214-252, 312-360 |
| Week 6: 10/30, 11/1 | Earth and Art | 10/30: Guest lecture, Daniela Vallega Neu (Reading: Heidegger, “Origin of the Work of Art”)  
11/1: Class cancelled for viewing of *The Ister* on your own time |
| Week 7: 11/6, 11/8 | The Elemental and the “There is” | Levinas, *Existence and Existents*, 45-60  
Levinas, *Totality and Infinity*, 109-219  
Levinas, *Ethics & Infinity*, 47-52 |
| Week 8: 11/13, 11/15 | Chiasm and Intertwining  
Prospectus Due, 11/15 | Merleau-Ponty, “The Philosopher and his Shadow”  
Merleau-Ponty, *Nature*, 3-4, 70-79  
Merleau-Ponty, “The Intertwining—The Chiasm” |
| Week 9: 11/20  
Sallis, *Force of Imagination*, 147-183 |
Foltz, “Nature’s Other Side”  
Llewelyn, *Seeing Through God*, 85-105  
Boetzkes, *The Ethics of Earth Art*, 1-63 |

Monday, December 3rd  
**Term Papers Due**  
Philosophy office, 3rd floor of PLC