

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Seminar 4: Modern and Contemporary Literature : Literature and the Environment (2AN1431)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Printemps

Equipe enseignante:

Prof. Patrick Vincent

Objectifs:

The aims of this course are the following:

- To develop students' close reading skills, learned in the first-year Introduction to Literature course
- To pursue in more depth a specific genre, period, or theme in modern literary history
- To improve expository and critical thinking skills, notably through class participation and a journal
- To improve research-paper writing skills, notably by preparing on oral presentation based on a critical article, and by learning how to integrate secondary criticism into a longer essay

Contenu:

This course will introduce students to the history, theory, and current practice of environmental writing and criticism, with a special focus on ethics. After looking at how different writers and philosophers have approached the term "nature", we will explore the vexed relationship between nature and culture from the Enlightenment to today in a variety of different genres (fiction, poetry, non-fiction prose). We will proceed historically, roughly dividing our reading between British and North American writers. Students will be asked to present philosophical or critical texts related to each week's readings, developing the following topics: pastoral and anti-pastoral; aesthetics and landscape; science versus literature; the concept of wilderness and land conservation; and the impact of feminism, environmental justice, postcolonialism, posthumanism, animal rights and antispecism. An important component of the course will be the environmental journal that students will be asked to keep in order to record their own relation to their environment.

Forme de l'évaluation:

Ev. Interne : One in-class presentation of primary or secondary text (10%); eco-journal (20%) ; research essay (6-8 double-spaced pages) (70%).

Documentation:

- Margaret Atwood, Surfacing (1979)
- All other reading will be available in a course reader

Pré-requis:

First-year courses (PP1-PP3) are required; « Modern and Contemporary Literature » lecture is recommended.

Forme de l'enseignement:

Seminar (participation is required)