

- 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 B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6
Pilier principal M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6
Pilier secondaire M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	6

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

Contenu

How have writers historically represented nature? What happens when, under pressure from fossil-fueled technologies, 'culture' becomes so entangled with 'nature' that the two become indissociable? And in the face of the generalized disruptions of the Anthropocene, how can a story become what Bruno Latour calls a 'geostory'? This course will seek to answer these and other pressing questions through an introduction to ecocriticism, or the history, theory, and practice of environmental writing and criticism, from the Enlightenment to today. We will explore the vexed relationship between nature and culture in a variety of genres (fiction, poetry, non-fiction prose), including three novels that vary from realism to speculative fiction. Students will be asked to present philosophical or critical texts related to each week's readings, developing topics including the nature-culture split and concept of nature as Other; Romantic landscape aesthetics; the idea of wilderness and land conservation; regionalism and sense of place; deep ecology; ecofeminism; animal rights, anti-speciesism and posthumanism; climate change and climate fiction; and, finally, new materialism and object-oriented ontology. The overall aim of the seminar is to better understand how literature might enhance our relationship to the planet and to its human and non-human subjects.

Forme de l'évaluation

weekly reading and discussion, in-class presentation of primary or secondary text (10%), eco-journal (30%), research essay (+-1500 words) (60% for BA, 50% for MA), only for MA students: 10 minute oral exam on The Overstory (10%)

Modalités de rattrapage

Students who fail the essay will have an opportunity to rewrite it.

Documentation

Margaret Atwood, *Surfacing* (1972)
Octavia Butler, *Parable of the Sower* (1993)
Only for MA students: Richard Powers, *The Overstory* (2018)

All other texts will be placed on the Moodle course platform

Pré-requis

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

Forme de l'enseignement

Seminar (participation is required)

URLs	1) https://moodle.unine.ch/course/view.php?id=5830
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