

**CMLT 3210: Ecocriticism** (in satisfaction of Env. Lit., EECP, and A&S Lit Req'ts)

Fall 2007 - Call number: 93-547

Instructor: Dr. Betty Jean Craige (bjcraige@uga.edu, 706-542-9265)

Class: TTH, 2:00-3:15, 509 Journalism Bldg.

Office: Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, 164 Psychology Building

Office hours: MW, 2:00 - 3:00, and by appointment

## Syllabus

**Course Description:** The exploration of a culture's conceptions of nature--and the social implications-- through examination of texts of literature and other discourses. Offered every fall.

**Course Objective:** The purpose of Comparative Literature 3210 (Ecocriticism) is to study the transformation in the past hundred years or so of our Western conceptual model from an atomistic, dualistic, hierarchical order to a new holistic order, in which people recognize the interconnectedness of all of nature's components. We will discuss the social, technological, and environmental consequences of this transformation. The reading assignments will challenge habitual ways of looking at the world.

### August

16 Introduction to course: Ecocriticism

21 Barbara Kingsolver, "Small Wonder," from *Small Wonder*

23 Barbara Kingsolver, "Saying Grace" and "The Patience of a Saint," from *Small Wonder*

28 Barbara Kingsolver, "Setting Free the Crabs," from *Small Wonder*

30 Barbara Kingsolver, "A Fist in the Eye of God," from *Small Wonder*

### September

4 Barbara Kingsolver, "Lily's Chickens," from *Small Wonder*

6 Barbara Kingsolver, "And Our Flag Was Still There" and "God's Wife's Measuring Spoons," from *Small Wonder*

11 Barbara Kingsolver, "Life Is Precious, Or It's Not" and "Flying," from *Small Wonder*

13 Daniel Quinn, *Ishmael*, 1-91

18 Daniel Quinn, *Ishmael*, 95-184

20 Daniel Quinn, *Ishmael*, 187-293

25 Elizabeth Dodson Gray, "Man-Above: The Anthropocentric Illusion" \*

27 Lynn White, Jr., "The Historical Roots of our Ecologic Crisis," from *The Ecocriticism Reader*

## October

2 MIDTERM EXAM DUE (in the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts: 2:00 pm)  
Interview with Daniel Quinn in the Willson Center

4 Betty Jean Craige, "Introduction" and "The Ladder" from *Laying the Ladder Down*  
\*

9 Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic"\*

11 Frederick Turner, "Cultivating the American Garden," from *The Ecocriticism Reader*

16 Alison Byerly, "The Uses of Landscape," from *The Ecocriticism Reader*

18 Harold Fromm, "From Transcendence to Obsolescence: A Route Map," from *The Ecocriticism Reader*

23 Neil Evernden, "Beyond Ecology: Self, Place, and the Pathetic Fallacy," from *The Ecocriticism Reader*

25 FALL BREAK

30 David Orr, "A Meditation on Building"\*

## November

1 Leslie Marmon Silko, "Landscape, History, and the Pueblo Imagination," from *The Ecocriticism Reader*

6 Paula Gunn Allen, "The Sacred Hoop," from *The Ecocriticism Reader*

8 Louis Owens, "Burning the Shelter" and "Everywhere There Was Life"\*

- 13 Donald L. Fixico, "The Struggle for Our Homes"\*  
15 TERM PAPER DUE.

Visit by Jace Weaver

- 20 Eugene P. Odum, "Ecology: The Common-Sense Approach"\*  
21 22 THANKSGIVING

27 Eugene P. Odum, "Bridging the Four Major Gaps that Threaten Human and Environmental Quality"\*

- 29 Eugene P. Odum, "Earth Stewardship"\*  
Eugene P. Odum, "When to Confront and When to Cooperate"\*

## December

- 4 NO CLASS: M-W-F schedule  
6 Concluding discussion: Elise Boulding, "Can There Be World Citizenship?" \*  
11 FINAL EXAMINATION DUE (in the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts: 3:30 pm)

\*In course packet, and available electronically and on reserve at Main Library

**Texts:** Cheryll Glotfelty and Harold Fromm, *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*; Daniel Quinn, *Ishmael*; Barbara Kingsolver, *Small Wonder*; Course packet (to be distributed). (Course packet is also on reserve at Main Library and is available electronically. The password is craige.)

**Course Requirements:** An oral presentation of one (or more) of the texts in the course to the class; a take-home mid-term examination (DUE OCTOBER 2); a 6-8-page term paper (DUE NOVEMBER 15); a take-home final examination (DUE DECEMBER 11); weekly contribution to WebCT Bulletin Board (IMPORTANT); and participation in class discussion.

**Term Paper:** An extended critical review (of 6-8 pages, typewritten, double-spaced), informed by the ideas presented in class, of one of the sample texts or another text approved by the instructor. In writing the paper students may think about the following questions: What is the author's conception of "nature"? What is the author's conception of the relationship between humans and non-human nature? Does the author have an argument for a particular understanding of "nature"? Is the book a critique of a particular understanding of "nature"?

**NOTE:** The book must not be, or have been, the subject of study in another class.

**Honors Option Term Paper:** An extended critical essay (8-10 pages, typewritten, double-spaced) on three or more texts in a particular field of inquiry. For example: a review of three or more texts in the field of ecofeminism. Topic must be approved by the instructor.

**Grading Policy:** The mid-term examination, the term paper, and the final examination are each valued at approximately 30 percent of the course grade; the oral presentation, the contributions to the WebCT Bulletin Board, and the contributions to class discussion make up the remaining 10 percent of the course grade.

**Attendance Policy:** More than three unexcused absences will impact the course grade.

**Make-up Policy:** Students with an excused absence for October 2 must turn in the exam at the earliest opportunity. Students with an excused absence for November 15 must turn in the term paper at the earliest opportunity. Students with an excused absence for December 11 who do not turn in the final exam will receive an "Incomplete" for the semester; students without an excused absence for December 11 will receive an F on the exam.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in *A Culture of Honesty*. Each student is responsible to inform himself or herself about those standards before performing any academic work.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course. Deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.