

Α	Course Number & Title	ENG 39410 Environmental Humanities				
В	Pre-requisite(s)	ENG 203 or ENG 204 or ENG 210 or ENG 250				
С	Number of credits	3-0-3				
D	Faculty Name	Brian McAllister				
E	Term/ Year	Spring 2023				
F	Sections	CRN Days Time Location		Location		
		21192	TR	15:30 – 16:	0 – 16:45 LAN 106	
G	Instructor Information	Office		Telephone		Email
		LAN 236	5	N/A		bmcallister@aus.edu
		Office Hours:				
		• TR 9:00 – 10	:30			
		Or by appoint	ntment			
Н	Course Description from Catalog	Analyzes literary, artistic, and cultural texts that explore human relationships to nature and the environment. Investigates ways that these writers and artists address our changing relationships to the more-than-human world in the context of ecological transformation. Emphasizes issues of environmental ethics and justice within these texts, focusing on the unequal global distribution of environmental crises.				
	Course Learning	Learning Outcomes Assessment Instruments				
-	Outcomes &	Upon completing this course, students will be able to:				
	Assessment Instruments	<ol> <li>Explain theoretical concepts related to Critical Responses environmental humanities.</li> <li>Creative Project</li> </ol>			Critical Responses Creative Project	
		Analyze the way that texts represent and explore relationships between humans and nature.			Rhetorical Analysis	
		Engage in scholarly research on a topic Agen related to environmental humanities.			Agenda Setting Presentation	
		Express sophisticated analysis in high-quality Final Exam     and rhetorically-effective writing.				
J	Textbooks, Instructional Material & Resources	Ibrahim Al-Koni. <i>The Bleeding of the Stone</i> . Trans. May Jayyusi and Christopher Tingley. Interlink Books, 2002. ISBN: 978-1566564175				
		Hayao Miyazaki. <i>Ponyo</i> . Studio Ghibli, 2008. <b>Music (available via Spotify and Apple Music playlists):</b> John Luther Adams. <i>Becoming Ocean</i> . Cantaloupe Music, 2014.  John Cage. <i>4'33"</i> . Cramp Records, 1974.  John Cage. <i>ASLSP/2</i> . Organum Classics, 2005.				

Thomas Köner. Novaya Zemlya. Touch, 2012.

Olivier Messiaen. Catalogue d'oiseaux. Naxos, 1997.

Nick Parkin. Geomorphic Resonance. Soleilmoon Recordings, 2001.

Additional materials provided by the instructor in line with copyright provisions.

K Teaching & Learning Methodologies

Lectures, group discussion, small groups

L Grading Scale, Grading Distribution, & Due Dates

## **Grading Scale**

94.60 - 100	4.0	Α
89.60 – 94.59	3.7	A-
86.60 - 89.59	3.3	B+
82.60 - 86.59	3.0	В
79.60 – 82.59	2.7	B-

76.60 – 79.59	2.3	C+
72.60 – 76.59	2.0	С
69.60 – 72.59	1.7	C-
59.60 - 69.59	1.0	D
Less than 59.60	0	F

### **Grading Distribution**

Assessment	Weight	Due Date (Week #)
Critical Response (10 x 1%)	10%	Weeks 2, 4, 8, 10, 12
Agenda Setting Presentation	15%	Throughout Semester
Rhetorical Analysis	20%	Week 6
Creative Project	20%	Week 14
Final Essay	25%	Finals Week
In-Class Assignments	5%	Throughout Semester
Engagement	5%	Throughout Semester
Total	100%	

## M Explanation of Assessments

**Critical Responses** are short (300-word), informal reflections on the readings for specific class sessions. These are low-stakes opportunities for students to explore ideas and interpretations in order to prepare for class discussion.

The **Agenda Setting Presentation** is a 10-minute presentation on a subject related to the week's readings and theoretical concerns. Students will sign up at the beginning of the semester for these different topics.

For the **Rhetorical Analysis**, (1,500–2,000 words) students engage in careful, sustained analysis of environmental rhetoric in one text.

The **Creative Project** incorporates environmental concerns of the course into a creative project of the student's choosing. Students then reflect on the way that this project addresses the larger concerns of sustainability. Students will present this project in class at the end of the semester.

The **Final Essay** is a research essay (2000–2500 words) that presents an extended examination of course concerns, using close analysis of primary sources and critical conversations with secondary sources.

**In-Class Assignments** include various writing and analytical activities that we will do in class throughout the semester. Occasional reading quizzes will also be included in this category.

**Engagement** is assessed on the following criteria: 1. completing assigned reading; 2. bringing the assigned text to class; 3. contributing regularly to class discussion. Active listening and questioning are important components of participation. A rubric will be provided to students.

#### N Attendance

Students in this course are required to follow the AUS Attendance Policy as outlined in the AUS Undergraduate Catalog.

In the event a student misses 15 percent of the total number of scheduled sessions in a class [i.e., **5** absences] for any reason, the instructor may initiate withdrawal of the student from the course if a written warning or formal notification was issued when the number of absences reached 10 percent [i.e., 3 absences]. Students are expected to manage course attendance to ensure that absences due to personal reasons or participation in extracurricular events do not exceed the 15 percent limit. Students who are absent as the result of participation in a university sanctioned extracurricular event approved by the Office of the Provost must notify instructors at least two weeks in advance of the event-related absence and, if the requirements of the course allow, instructors are expected to make reasonable accommodations that may include make-up exams or the submission of assignments prior to an absence.

Students are considered **late** to class if they arrive after I have taken attendance. 3 late arrivals will count as 1 unexcused absence.

What this policy means for our class sessions:

- In-person attendance is expected for *all* students at *every* class session. You must also have all materials on hand (readings, note-taking materials, etc.).
- You will be marked late if you arrive after I have taken attendance.
- Only university-approved absences will count as excused. I must see appropriate documentation at least two weeks prior to the absence.

# O Assignment Submissions

All assignments must be submitted on time. Late submissions will receive a **10% penalty** for every day after the deadline.

Requests for extensions will only be considered

- 1) if requested by the student at least 24-hours before the listed deadline and
- 2) for officially documented academic accommodations and/or extenuating circumstances.

This policy does NOT include extensions to accommodate individual student workloads or assignment deadlines in other classes.

Late submissions for Critical Responses will *not* be accepted. All Critical Responses submitted after the deadline will receive no credit.

## P Student Academic Integrity Code Statement

Students MUST read the Student Academic Integrity Code outlined in the *AUS Undergraduate* Catalog and abide by the standards for academic conduct, students' rights and responsibilities and procedures for handling allegations of academic dishonesty.

All assignment submissions in this course must be original work done by the students themselves. It is a serious violation of the AUS academic integrity code if a student, for example, uses any generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) model like ChatGPT, or any other AI tool, to draft/do the work for them.

### **SCHEDULE**

#	WEEK	TOPICS & ASSIGNED READING	NOTES
1	24 Jan 26 Jan	Course Introduction  Robert S. Emmett and David E. Nye, selections from <i>The Environmental Humanities: A Critical Introduction</i>	



2	31 Jan 2 Feb	Environmental Rhetoric  Rachel Carson, selections from Silent Spring  Robin Wall Kimmerer, selections from Braiding Sweetgrass Preface Skywoman Falling The Council of Pecans Learning the Grammar of Animacy	Critical Response 1 Due
3		Environmental Narrative 1: Deranged Nature	
	7 Feb	Margaret Atwood, "Death by Landscape"	
	9 Feb	Ursula K. LeGuin, "Vaster than Empires and More Slow"	
4		Environmental Narrative 1: Deranged Nature	
	14 Feb	Amitav Ghosh, The Great Derangement, pp. 3–27	Critical Response 2 Due
		Leslie Marmon Silko, "Lullaby"	
	16 Feb	NO CLASS	
5		Environmental and Poetry 1: Nature Poetry	
	21 Feb	Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Mont Blanc"	
		William Blake, "Auguries of Innocence"	
	23 Feb	Gerard Manley Hopkins, "Pied Beauty" Marianne Moore, "The Paper Nautilus"	Critical Response 3 Due
		Jean Toomer, "Reapers" and "November Cotton Flower"	
6		Environment and Film 1: Ecology and Slow Violence	
	28 Feb	Jennifer Baichwal, Manufactured Landscapes	Rhetorical Analysis Due
	2 Mar	Rob Nixon, selections from <i>Slow Violence</i>	,
7		Environment and Music 1: The Sounds of Nature	
	7 Mar	John Luther Adams, Becoming Ocean	Critical Response 4 Due
	9 Mar	Olivier Messiaen, Catalog of Birds	·
8		Environment and Visual Art 1: Art about Nature	
	14 Mar	Various Artists, Landscape Painting	
	16 Mar	Alexis Rockman, Olafur Eliasson, Katie Paterson	Critical Response 5 Due
	18 Mar	Jameel Arts Centre, "An Ocean in Every Drop"	Jameel Response (5) Due Sunday, 19 March
9		Environment and Visual Art 2: Art in Nature	
	21 Mar	James Crump, Troublemakers: The Story of Land Art	
	23 Mar	No Class (Attend Jameel Arts Centre trip)	
10		Environment and Music 2: Scale	
	4 Apr	Nick Parkin, Geomorphic Resonance	
		Thomas Köner, Novaya Zemlya	
	6.000	John Cage, 4'33"	Critical Response 7 Due
	6 Apr	John Cage, ASLSP/2 Jem Finer, Longplayer	



11	11 Apr 13 Apr	Environment and Film 2: The Ecological Mesh  Hayao Miyazaki, <i>Ponyo</i> James Lovelock, selections from <i>The Gaia Hypothesis</i> Hayao Miyazaki, <i>Ponyo</i>	Critical Response 8 Due
12	18 Apr 20 Apr	Environment and Poetry 2: Embodied Environments  Adam Dickinson, from Anatomic Natasha Tretheway, "Liturgy" Craig Santos Perez, "The Last Safe Habitat"  No Class	Critical Response 9 Due
13	25 Apr 27 Apr	Environmental Narrative 2: Human/Non-Human Encounters  Ibrahim Al-Koni, <i>The Bleeding of the Stone</i> (Ch. 1–7)  Ibrahim Al-Koni, <i>The Bleeding of the Stone</i> (Ch. 8–13)	Critical Response 10 Due
14	2 May 4 May	Environmental Narrative 2: Human/Non-Human Encounters  Ibrahim Al-Koni, <i>The Bleeding of the Stone</i> (Ch. 14–21)  Ibrahim Al-Koni, <i>The Bleeding of the Stone</i> (Ch. 22–26)	Creative Project Due
15	9 May 11 May	Creative Project Presentations Creative Project Presentations	
	EXAM WEEK	Final Exam	