

Course Code	Course Title	L	T	P	C
PHD19014	Ecocriticism	4	0	0	4

Unit 1: INTRODUCTION: AN OVERVIEW OF ECOCRITICISM: WHAT IS ECOCRITICISM?

This Unit intends to introduce the following concepts:

Origin and History: A Theoretical Introduction of Ecocriticism

Environmental Justice Movement

Social Ecology

Ecological Imperialism

Ecocide

Deep Ecology

Basic Reading : Ecocriticism, Pippa Marland* Institute of Humanities and Creative Arts, University of Worcester, UK

Unit 2: Critical Methods: Environmental Criticism:

This unit will introduce students to the history, theory, and practice of environmental criticism. We will look at how different writers and critics have approached the term “nature” and its various translations into culture, and will consider some of the key themes and debates that have helped define the field of ecocriticism to date.

1. Reviewing pastoral through an eco-critical lens

Readings: Goldsmith, Oliver. “The Deserted Village”

Crabbe, George. “The Village: Book 1”

1. Narratives of decline and renewal

Readings: Goldsmith, “The Rising Village”

2. Romantic Ecologies

Wordsworth, William. “To a Skylark”

Clare, John. “The Skylark”

Basic Readings:

Romantic Ecology: The Structure of Consciousness and Shelley’s writing

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject_specific_writing/writing_in_literature/literary_theory_and_schools_of_criticism/ecocriticism.html

Unit 3: Introduction to Environmental Literature:

The Unit aims to introduce the application of Eco critical methods to literary texts ranging from Romantic poetry, to conservation-oriented writing and field guides, to contemporary poetry and fiction. Topics to be discussed include: pastoral and anti-pastoral; the relationship between natural history and ecological discourses; ecocriticism’s relationship to realism, referentiality, and science; the concept of wilderness.

*The role of literature in how we perceive and conceptualize nature; earth as literary setting and stage but also as habitat; utopias vs. dystopias;

*sense of place; pollution, climate change, the fossil- and post-fossil fuel economies, and other environmental problems and potential catastrophes; notions of private vs. communal property; mammals, birds and concepts of the more-than-human world; extirpation and extinction of animal and plant species; notions of wilderness and wilder places; settlers and nomads.

Basic Reading: Darwin, Charles. *On the Origin of Species* Penguin, 2009

UNIT 4 : NONFICTION PROSE: NATURE WRITING

Introduction to Environmental Literature: “Glossary”: especially the following terms: anthropocentrism, anthropomorphism, ecocentrism, ecocriticism, ecology, environment, environmental justice, nature, pastoral, wildKaza, “Why Environmental Humanities?” observation and contemplation of nature; nature and silence; the relationship between landscape

and story; ethics, environmental activism and questions of responsibility to the earth; and related topics.

Unit 5: POST-COLONIALISM AND ECOCRITICISM

the role of literature in environmental movements, past and present; and the impacts of feminism, environmental justice, postcolonialism, animal rights, and posthumanism on the development of ecocritical theory and practice.

1. Graham Huggan, and Helen Tiffin. *Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature, Animals, Environment*. 2nd eds. London and New York: Routledge, 2015.
2. Postcolonialism and the Environment by Dana Mount and Susie O'Brien: *The Oxford Handbook of Postcolonial Studies Edited by Graham Huggan, Oxford University Press, 2013*

Suggested Readings:

1. Abel, Daniel C., and Robert L. McConnell. *Environmental Oceanography: Topics and Analysis*. Sudbury: Jones and Bartlett, 2010. Aberth, John. *An Environmental History of the Middle Ages: The Crucible of Nature*. London: Routledge, 2013.
2. Adamson, Joni, Mei Mei Evans, and Rachel Stein, eds. *The Environmental Justice Reader: Politics, Poetics, & Pedagogy*. Tucson: The U of Arizona P, 2002.
3. Huggan, Graham. "'Greening' Postcolonialism: Ecocritical Perspectives." *Modern Fiction Studies* 50.3 2004: 703-33.
4. Soper, Kate. *What Is Nature? Culture, Politics, and the Non-Human*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1995.
5. "Ideas of Nature." *Problems in Materialism and Culture: Selected Essays*. London: Verso, 1980. 67-85. (also available at scholar.google.ca)

Assessment:

Candidate will be assessed based on written papers and/or oral presentations followed with a written examination.