

EN3F2-30 Ecopoetics: Poetry and World-Ecology

24/25

Department

English and Comparative Literary Studies

Level

Undergraduate Level 3

Module leader

Jonathan Skinner

Credit value

30

Module duration

20 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module offers an immersive, practical and theoretical orientation to the major "compass points" in ecopoetics: creative and critical engagement of writing with the emerging set of environmental challenges now facing life on earth.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

Students who complete it will gain an introduction to some of the principal issues in and leading theoretical critiques of the environmental crisis, across a range of disciplines; sustained engagement with distinctive, and differing, approaches to contemporary writing in ecopoetics, with a good overview of major currents in contemporary poetry; and an equally sustained immersion in hands-on practices, resulting in a solid body of work, both critical and creative, and a comprehensive set of tools (and compass points) for further development. As the module explores both the creative and the critical dimension in ecopoetics, it supplements both courses in the Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies, where students may seek an introduction to contemporary poetry and an application of critical theory, and courses in the Writing

Program, where students may develop their creative writing with a sustained focus in a supportive and challenging workshop environment. Students in both courses will benefit from the interdisciplinary perspectives of discussions pointing to future configurations of literary arts and studies in relation to the humanities, sciences and social sciences.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Term 1

Field-based Writing

1 Description

2 Walking

3 Gardens

4 Urban environments

5 Site-specific work

6 Reading Week

7 Pastoral / Wilderness / Third landscapes

8 Labor, food systems, shelter and urban planning

9 Bioregions and biodiversity

10 Global networks: energy, trade, migration

Term 2

11 Sound and soundscapes

12 Concepts and procedures

13 Documents and research

14 Situations

15 Systems and boundaries

16 Reading Week

17 Interstices and hybrids

18 Poetry/ essay workshopping.

19 Poetry/ essay workshopping.

20 Poetry/ essay workshopping.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- - Develop a method for writing in the field, drawing on recent techniques for writing away from the desk, in relation to place and to a current, relevant mode of engaging a major dimensions of the changing environment.
- - Summarize the principal environmental “issues” affecting life in the twenty-first century and articulate a significant structural connection between some differently-scaled components of

these issues.

- - Draw a map of the current field of poetic practice, describing and commenting on particular aspects of recent ecopoetics, and locate student's own tendencies on this map. Make appropriate use of scholarly reviews and primary sources.
- - Understand how ecopoetics refracts through the map of current poetic practice into an array of engagements that put different kinds of pressure on different structural connections in the environment, in ways that are sometimes allied, sometimes in opposition.
- - Write in a specific poetic form (mode of engagement) and write about poetic form (mode of engagement) in an extended piece of work or project that takes on and articulates the rationale for this mode of writing.
- - Understand and write in relation to the interdisciplinary imperative of ecopoetics, locating and reflecting on how the student's project relates to specific, disparate audiences, coming from different disciplinary backgrounds.

Indicative reading list

Corey, Joshua and G.C. Waldrep, eds. *The Arcadia Project: North American Postmodern Pastoral* (Boise, Idaho: Ahsakta Press, 2012)

Fisher-Wirth Ann and Laura Gray-Street. *The Ecopoetry Anthology* (San Antonio, TX: Trinity UP, 2013)

Guha, Ramachandra. *Environmentalism: A Global History* (New York: Longman, 2000)

Garrard, Greg. *Ecocriticism* (London: Routledge, 2011)

Tarlo, Harriet. *The Ground Aslant: Radical Landscape Poetry* (Bristol, UK: Shearsman Books, 2011)

Iijima, Brenda, ed. *The Ecolanguage Reader* (NY: Portable Press at Yo-yo labs and Nighboat Editions, 2010)

Subject specific skills

- Develop a method for writing in the field, drawing on recent techniques for writing away from the desk, in relation to place and to a current, relevant mode of engaging a major dimensions of the changing environment.
- Summarize the principal environmental "issues" affecting life in the twenty-first century and articulate a significant structural connection between some differently-scaled components of these issues.
- Draw a map of the current field of poetic practice, describing and commenting on particular aspects of recent ecopoetics, and locate student's own tendencies on this map. Make appropriate use of scholarly reviews and primary sources.
- Understand how ecopoetics refracts through the map of current poetic practice into an array of engagements that put different kinds of pressure on different structural connections in the environment, in ways that are sometimes allied, sometimes in opposition.
- Write in a specific poetic form (mode of engagement) and write about poetic form (mode of engagement) in an extended piece of work or project that takes on and articulates the

rationale for this mode of writing.

- Understand and write in relation to the interdisciplinary imperative of ecopoetics, locating and reflecting on how the student's project relates to specific, disparate audiences, coming from different disciplinary backgrounds.

Transferable skills

TBC

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 1 hour 30 minutes (9%)
Private study	273 hours (91%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

Reading & research.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A2

	Weighting	Study time
Ecopoetics portfolio	30%	
10 pages A4 poetry-- the poetry equivalent of 2,000 words of prose-- plus 1,000 words of critical commentary		
Portfolio of field-based writing	20%	
5 pages of A4 poetry, or a site-based project-- the poetry equivalent of 1,000 words of prose-- plus 1,000 words of critical commentary		

	Weighting	Study time
Final Portfolio	50%	
With EITHER an extended poetry sequence (20 - 30 pages A4, the poetry equivalent of 4000 words of creative prose) plus 1000 words of critical commentary, OR a critical essay (5000 words) that must include some close reading of contemporary poetry.		

Feedback on assessment

The instructor will give formative feedback (verbal or written) on student performance each week, as well as detailed written feedback on assessed work at the end of Units 1 and 2 during Term 1 and at the end of the module.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 4 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature
- Year 4 of UFIA-QW26 Undergraduate Film and Literature (with Study Abroad)

This module is Core option list C for:

- Year 4 of UCXA-QQ38 Undergraduate Classics and English (with Intercalated Year)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UCXA-QQ37 Undergraduate Classics and English
- Year 3 of UFIA-QW25 Undergraduate Film and Literature

This module is Option list C for:

- Year 4 of UPHA-VQ73 Undergraduate Philosophy and Literature with Intercalated Year