

**ENGLISH 210 06: APPROACHES TO LITERATURE**

Nature and the Human Spirit

Time: 12:00 – 12:50 p.m. MWF Place: SSC 210  
Professor: Dr. Elizabeth L. Sawin Office: SSC 215  
Phone: 271-4272 Office hrs: MW 2-4 p.m.; F 2-3  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Is nature dead or divine? A living system or raw material? Necessary or healing? "Out" there or "in" here? Does nature have rights? Do we have sense? Have American attitudes toward nature changed in the stories we tell, the poems we write, and the movies we see? We will study the complex relationships between nature and the human spirit.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

*Literature and the Environment: A Reader on Nature and Culture.* Eds. Anderson, Slovic, &. O'Grady  
New York: Longman, 1999.  
*Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster* by Jon Krakauer (on order)  
*Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver (on order)

**REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS:**

Paper on poetry	80
Paper on fiction	80
Paper on major course question	80
Mid-term test & quizzes	80
Attendance/participation	40
Final or special project*	40
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	400 points

\*Special Project (more on this later)

- Class oral report and written response to one of the books written by an author in our anthology
- Creative/nonfiction paper on selected flora and fauna
- Submission of a Reading Log for the Semester

400-360 = A      359-320 = B      319-280 = C      279-240 = D  
100-90% 89-80%      79-70%      69-60%

N.B. I reserve the right to make changes in the nature of the work we do this semester if need be or if some opportunity arises that would be an ideal performance objective for this course. The percentages for final grade assignment will, however, stay the same.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES FOR 210 :**

1. Recognize the major characteristics of literary genres
2. Discuss literature, orally and in writing, with assurance
3. Appreciate literary works which are encountered
4. Understand the different ways in which literary theme may be treated in literature

The student is expected to:

1. Read poetry, prose fiction, and drama
2. Investigate various methods of approaching and understanding literature
3. Write papers, including themes and essay examinations
4. Read a variety of literary works in which a chosen theme is dominant

**STATE LEVEL GOALS:**

To develop students' abilities to understand the moral and ethical values of a diverse society and to understand that many courses of action are guided by value judgments about the way things ought to be. Students should be able to make informed decisions through identifying personal values and the values of others and through understanding how such values develop. They should be able to analyze the ethical implications of choices made on the basis of these values.

- A. Compare and contrast historical and cultural ethical perspectives and belief systems.
- B. Utilize cultural, behavioral, or historical knowledge to clarify and articulate a personal value system.
- C. Recognize the ramifications of ones' value decisions on self and others.
- D. Recognize conflicts within and between value systems.
- E. Recognize and analyze the effect of context on ethical decisions.

To develop students' understanding of the ways in which humans have addressed their condition through imaginative work in the humanities and fine arts; to deepen their understanding of how that imaginative process is informed and limited by social, cultural, linguistic, and historical circumstances; and to appreciate the world of the creative imagination as a form of knowledge.

- A. Identify works in humanities and fine arts.
- B. Explain historical, cultural, and social contexts in humanities and fine arts.
- C. Identify aesthetic standards used to make critical judgments in humanities.
- D. Understand differences and relationships between formal and popular culture.
- E. Apply aesthetic standards to works in humanities and fine arts.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

You are expected to do your own reading and writing in this course. Any student who submits someone else's work as his or her own will receive no credit (0 points) for that assignment. A second infraction will earn an "F" in the course. Students will be reported to the Dean of Students. Taking ideas from articles published on the web *without citation* or copying work from other students is NOT acceptable academic behavior.

**ATTENDANCE / PARTICIPATION POLICY:**

10% (40 points) of your grade will be assigned to the *work you do in class*, including almost daily but brief, in-class writings and unannounced quizzes about the assigned readings, videos, or speakers. Most of these writings will receive a plus or minus mark from me, but some will receive points. To recognize your steady participation in the course, you will receive up to 10% of the course points according to the following schedule:

Perfect attendance with work accomplished in class:	40 points
One absence with work accomplished in class:	37 points
Two absences:                   “                   “	33 points
Three absences:               “               “	29 points
Four absences:               “               “	25 points
Five absences:               “               “	21 points

No points for in-class work will be awarded if you have more than 5 absences. If an extraordinary and prolonged medical emergency occurs, I reserve the right to make an adjustment, but only if you provide substantial written documentation. Do not take chances with your health or safety but save your absences for real emergencies.

**DISABLED STUDENT POLICY:**

If you have a recognized disability that requires special consideration, please make an appointment to see me during the first week of classes so that we can discuss privately how I might help you succeed.

**REQUIRED FORMATTING for out-of-class copy:**

Identify yourself in the upper, right-hand corner:

Name  
English 210  
Nature of the Assignment  
Date

- Use regular white paper.                   Leave one-inch margins on all sides.
- Center the title.                            Number each page (bottom right)
- Single-space within paragraphs.        Double-space between paragraphs.