ARTS3050

Reading Natures

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Sigi Jottkandt	s.jottkandt@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Webster 311J	x56813

School Contact Information

School of the Arts and Media

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The School of the Arts and Media would like to Respectfully Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians, the Bedegal (Kensington campus), Gadigal (City and Art & Design Campuses) and the Ngunnawal people (Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra) of the lands where each campus of UNSW is located.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

The Anthropocene refers to the new geological era where human activity has become a profound force on the Earth's systems and processes. Putting this into context, Reading Natures examines literary representations of the natural world and human society's place within it from the late 18th century—considered as the beginning of anthropogenic climate change—to the present. The course will familiarize you with some of the most exciting new developments in critical thought such as posthumanism, new materialism, naturecultures, deep time, ecosmopolitanism and ontopower. You will also develop your own eco-concepts and living vocabularies of the world's rapidly changing Imaginary. What might an eco-critical praxis look like? This course, which can be taken either as an English or a Creative Writing subject, solicits new answers to how to read nature and the nature of reading in the Anthropocene.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Compare various theoretical positions and approaches to the study of nature and literature
2. Conduct and deploy research in field of literature and the environment
3. Contextualise and articulate a critical position on the topic of literature and the environment

Teaching Strategies

The lecture will rehearse the presentation of ideas and argument in relation to conception of the environment and forms of representation. It will be interactive in that the lectures include designated time for student questions. It also develops the student community of the course.

The seminars require detailed preparation, which form the basis of high level discussion. Each seminar includes whole group discussions and small group discussions.

The online support will include discussion groups as well as a repository of course information.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Major Essay	50%	30/03/2021 11:00 PM	1, 2, 3
Research Project	50%	26/04/2021 11:00 PM	2, 3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Major Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

Word length/Duration: 2,000

Essay on topic set by the convenor

Percentage: 50

Feedback via LMS

Submission notes: Refer to Moodle

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 2: Research Project

Details:

Word length/Duration: Equivalent of 2,000-words

Students perform research and create textual and visual micro-landscapes for an online Living Book.

Percentage: 50

Feedback vis LMS

Submission notes: Refer to Moodle

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Lecture	**Introduction to the Eco-Thought**
	Seminar	*Being Ecological/Thinking Ecologically* Readings: David Abram, 'The Ecology of Magic' Henry Thoreau, 'Walking'
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Lecture	**The Ecological Text**
	Seminar	*The Book of Nature and the Ecological Text* Readings: poems by John Clare, John Keats and Juliana Spahr
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Lecture	**Emerging Worlds**
	Seminar	*Emergences* Readings: Selections from Leslie Marmon Silko and Luther Standing Bear
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Lecture	**Marginal Worlds**
	Seminar	*Liminal Landscapes* Readings: Rachel Carson, 'Marginal worlds' Franklin Russell, 'The Island of the Auks'
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Lecture	**Plant Worlds**
	Seminar	*Sensing Plants* Readings: D. H. Lawrence, 'Flowery Tuscany'
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March		Flex Week. No lectures or seminars
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Lecture	**Animal Worlds**
	Seminar	*Dog Lovers* Readings: Virginia Woolf, *Flush* Elizabeth Barrett Browning, 'To Flush, my dog' and 'Flush, or Faunus'
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Lecture	**Watery Worlds**
	Seminar	*Going Under* Readings: chapters from Herman Melville, *Moby Dick* (ch 51, The Spirit-Spout, ch 93 The

Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Lecture	**Insect Worlds**
	Seminar	*Seeing Others* Readings: Vladimir Nabokov, "Butterflies" Virginia Woolf, "The Death of the Moth"
Week 10: 19 April - 23 April	Lecture	**Bird Worlds**
	Seminar	*The View from Above* Readings: selections from Wallace Stevens J. A. Baker, *The Peregine* (selections on Moodle)

(Castaway). appears in the cell above Week 9.

Resources

Prescribed Resources

- Virginia Woolf, *Flush* (online book from Project Gutenberg)
- Herman Melville, Moby Dick (online book from Project Gutenberg)
- Selected readings from *The Norton Book of Nature Writing* (selections on Moodle)

Recommended Resources

The Norton Book of Nature Writing

Leganto reading list (on Moodle)

Course Evaluation and Development

You will be asked to complete the MyExperience questionnaire at the end of the course. Your thoughtful comments will be helpful to me when revising the course for next time.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Image Credit

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CRICOS

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.