

ENGL 340: Genre Focus: Nature Writing Spring 2006
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Grades will be based on:

Large Project	40
Small Project	20
Journal	15
Poetry Presentation	10
Attendance and Participation	15
Total	100

Students will do a **scholarly and a creative project**, submitting one as the large project and one as the small project. Students may determine which is which, depending on their preference and interests. The *large project* should be 10-15 pages, and the *smaller* one should be 5-7 pages. *Large scholarly projects* will likely take the form of a researched paper: it might be a study of a relevant philosophical or theological concept, or a critical analysis of a literary text. *Smaller scholarly projects* might be shorter researched papers, annotated bibliographies, bibliographic essays, and the like. *Creative projects* might be short fiction, poetry, meditative essays, photo essays, or artwork. The size would be adjusted, depending on which project you are submitting it as. When you submit your creative project, please also submit a page describing the standards by which it should be judged, to guide my grading.

The **journal** should be an omnibus project. It ought to contain a variety of things, particularly including your responses to our readings (long works, essays, poetry, etc.). It might also contain your own meditations on nature, drafts of poetry, collage work, and the like. Essentially, this will be the source of your projects and a resource upon which you may draw for class discussion and the like.

Each student will make a **poetry presentation**. The week before your presentation, you will need to distribute poetry to the class so that we may read the literature in advance of your presentation. You may use power point: if that is your desire, please e-mail me your presentation in advance of our class meeting. The presentation should provide us with a brief background of relevant information and focus on leading us in good discussion. Please choose from the following poets:

Emily Dickinson	Wendell Berry
Czeslaw Milosz	Simon Ortiz
William Wordsworth	Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Lao Tzu	Matsuo Basho
Pablo Neruda	

Guidelines for Electronic Submissions: Documents should be saved in MSWord format and sent to vugrading@gmail.com by 8:00 pm on the due date. The documents should be named thus: lastnameL and lastnameS for the large and small project, respectively. The last name that should be used is the student's, not the instructor's. Please do not submit papers with generic titles like "English paper." In the case of the short story assignment, both student names should appear in the document name. All documents should follow MLA format: that is, headers containing the student's name, date of submission, and course should be included, as should page numbers. Do not send any correspondence, other than paper submissions, to this address. If you wish to e-mail me regarding the class, questions about our reading, etc., please use the vanguard e-mail address.

Your **attendance and participation** in this class are important to your learning experience. Due to the discussion-oriented nature of this course, your thoughtful preparation (or lack thereof) will directly affect the quality of the class for all of us. The instructor reserves the right to use reading quizzes or other methods of reinforcing participation. After one absence, your grade will begin to drop. This includes the assumption that all students will own and read our textbooks. These are *required* for the course; please do not think that you can succeed in a literature course without using our books.

Late Work is strongly discouraged. All take-home materials (papers, worksheets) will drop a letter grade for each calendar day that they are late. Make-up exams are at the discretion of the instructor.

Plagiarism is a form of theft that I take very seriously. In my classes, the first instance of plagiarism generally results in a failing grade for that assignment; further plagiarism can cause you to fail the class and/or be reported to the dean's office.

According to the Student Handbook, "Either cheating or plagiarism (presenting as one's own, the words or opinions of others), is regarded as a serious violation of both the academic and moral standards of VUSC.... The dean of the program and the Vice President for Student Affairs are to be notified in instances of academic dishonesty. A student commits plagiarism if submitted as his/her work: Part or all of an assignment copied from another person's assignment, notes, or computer file. Part or all of an assignment copied or paraphrased from a book, magazine, pamphlet, or website. A sequence of ideas transferred from another source which the student has not ... integrated and reorganized and to which he/she fails to give proper acknowledgement. A student is an accomplice in plagiarism if he/she: Allows his/her paper or other assignment, in outline or finished form, to be copied and submitted as the work of another. Lends his/her computer disk to another student or otherwise allows his/her computer files to be copied for the purposes of plagiarism. Prepares a written assignment for another student and allows it to be submitted as another's work" (61-62).

The **textbooks** for this class include:

Edward Abbey. *Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness*. ISBN 0345326490

Berry, Wendell. *The Art of the Commonplace*. ISBN1593760078

Annie Dillard. *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*. ISBN 0060953020

Robert Finch and John Elder, eds. *The Norton Book of Nature Writing*. College edition ISBN 0393978168

Roger S. Gottlieb, ed. *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, Environment*. 2nd Ed. ISBN 0415943604

Henry D Thoreau. *Walden*. ISBN0393959058

Terry Tempest Williams. *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*. ISBN: 0679740244

If you want to do your large project on a creative subject, please also use:

Christian McEwen and Mark Statman. *The Alphabet of the Trees: A Guide to Nature Writing*. ISBN 0915924633

If you are more philosophically interested, add in:

Yi-Fu Tuan, *Topophilia: A Study of Environmental Perception, Attitudes, and Values*. ISBN 023107395X

Course Schedule:

9 January Course Intro

- 16 January NO SCHOOL: MLK day
- 23 January Thoreau *Walden*
- 30 January Thoreau *Walden* (?)
- 6 February Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic," Norton 376; Peterson, Gottlieb 113; White, Gottlieb 192; Haught, Gottlieb 232; Cobb, Gottlieb 248
FROST -- JANELL
- 13 February John Muir, Gottlieb 34, Norton 250; Lewis, Norton 95; Audubon, Norton 117; Powell, Norton 230; Stegner, Norton 504
DICKINSON- JEFF
- 20 February NO SCHOOL: President's day
- 27 February Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*;
choose 3 from Pope John Paul II, American Baptist Churches USA,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Evangelical Environmental
Network, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew in Gottlieb Part III
MILOSZ - AMANDA
- 6 March Annie Dillard, *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*
Wallace, Gottlieb 596; Mananzan, Gottlieb 688
LAO TZU - STEPHEN
- 13 March NO SCHOOL: Spring Break
- 20 March Wendell Berry;
choose 3 liturgies from Gottlieb Part VI: Religious Practice for a Sacred
Earth
BERRY- SAMANTHA
- 27 March Edward Abbey *Desert Solitaire*
Higgins-Freese, Gottlieb 716; First National People of Color
Environmental Leadership Summit, Gottlieb 729
WORDSWORTH - DOROTHY
- 3 April Readings from the Norton (make some suggestions)
ZEPEDA- HOSANNA
ORTIZ - KENDRICK
- 10 April Readings from the Norton (make some suggestions)
GOETHE -NATASHA
WHITMAN - EMMA

- 17 April Terry Tempest Williams *Refuge*; Reuther, Gottlieb 388; Gebara, Gottlieb 400
WALKER –ASHLEY
- 24 April Terry Tempest Williams *Refuge*; Riley, Gottlieb 412; Baker-Fletcher, Gottlieb 428
BASHO - KIMBERLY
- 1 May Readings from the Norton (make some suggestions)
SNYDER - KEVIN

POETS AND PRESENTERS IN CAPS