

Thinking Nature: Philosophy, Literature & the Environment



Instructor: Mary Childs | Autumn 2015 | T/Th 11:30-1:20

In this course we will read some of the foundational texts of the American environmental movement. Discussing the movement's philosophical underpinnings in French phenomenology and Buddhist thought, we will investigate the role of literature in shaping peoples' understanding of the relationship between humans and nature, and their awareness of the current environmental crisis. Authors we will read include: Aldo Leopold, Gary Snyder, Mary Oliver, Margaret Atwood, Hank Lentfer, and the Buddhist scholar and activist Joanna Macy. We will also build in an integrative component, exploring opportunities for participating in local environmental efforts.