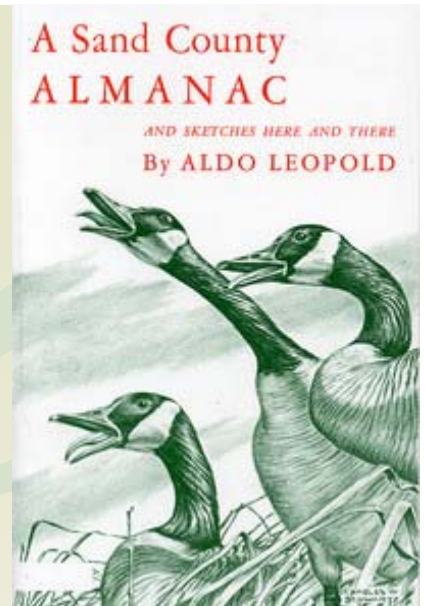


Department of Environmental Science and Biology

New Course for Fall 2007!!!

The Environmental Imagination



Environmental Literature (ENL/ENV 469/569*) is a new interdisciplinary course, team-taught by Professors Chris Norment (from the Dept. of Environmental Science and Biology) and Ralph Black (from the English Dept.). The course will explore the various relationships between American literature and the physical environment. We will consider such issues as the role of natural history in the development of American literary form, the evolution of the nature essay as a genre, the place of environmental literature in literary history, and the role of nature writing as a form of environmental activism.

Some of the questions to be addressed in the course: Why have American authors been so consistently concerned with and inspired by the idea of wilderness? How did our culture move from the Puritan notion of howling wilderness to the Transcendentalist vision of divine nature to contemporary nature writers' concerns with imperiled ecosystems? What can literary texts tell us about the interactions between nature and culture, and about our own places (as writers, readers, dwellers) in the natural world? Can an understanding of literature help us to "read" the natural world? And, can an understanding of ecological systems help us to read literature?

Coursework will include class presentations, critical essays, and field study projects, including bird banding, live-trapping of small mammals, and insect & plant studies.

Possible Authors & Books: William Bartram, *Travels* —Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire* —Henry David Thoreau, *Walden* —Gary Snyder, *Turtle Island* — John Muir, *The Mountains of California* — Leslie Marmon Silko, *Ceremony* —Mary Austin, *The Land of Little Rain* —Jane Brox, *Here and Nowhere Else* —Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring* —Barry Lopez, *Desert Notes* and *River Notes* — Aldo Leopold, *Sand County Almanac* —E.O Wilson, *Biophilia*

And poems by: Whitman, Dickinson, Jeffers, Kunitz, Kinnell, Hass, Oliver, Haines, Rogers, etc.

**Students should enroll in either the ENL or the ENV section of the course, not both.*

Class Meets: Tuesday/Thursday, 1:15-2:45