

## **EN859 Imaginings in Environmental Criticism 4-0-0 4**

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This course will introduce students to the history, theory, and practice of environmental criticism, how different writers and critics have approached and structured the idea of “nature” and its various translations into culture, and will consider some of the key themes and debates that have helped define the field of ecocriticism to date. Why do ecocritical writers sometimes focus on the non-human environment such as land, water and animals? In what ways are environmental issues inseparable from social issues? Can ecocriticism offer a critique of capital? Topics to be discussed include: the relationship between natural history and ecological discourses; ecocriticism’s relationship to realism and science; the concept of wilderness and landscape; the role of literature in environmental movements, past and present; and the impacts of environmental justice, postcolonialism, and posthumanism on the development of ecocritical theory and practice.

### **COURSE OUTCOMES:**

CO- 1: Understand how different writers and critics have approached the term “nature”

CO- 2: Comprehend the relationship of ecocriticism to colonialism and postcolonial studies.

CO- 3: theorizing human/non-human relations, the militarized physical environment, and the Anthropocene

CO- 4: Interpret, analyze, historicize and critique landscape and ecological art in appropriate terminology, in order to describe its production of attitudes, meanings and social messages

CO- 5: Engage in interdisciplinary learning through processes of critical analysis, careful looking and deliberate description

### **ACTIVITIES/ CONTENT WITH DIRECT BEARING ON EMPLOYABILITY/ ENTREPRENEURSHIP/ SKILL DEVELOPMENT (based on NAAC Criteria):**

The learner is able to form a clear understanding of the concepts and ideas regarding the socially and culturally relevant area of thought that is being explored in the course,

enabling the learner to build a career as an Assistant Professor or content writer in the respective field.

**YEAR OF INTRODUCTION:** 2021

## **SYLLABUS**

### **Unit 1**

#### **Introduction to Environmental Criticism**

Ramachandra Guha- *Environmentalism*

Glotfelty, Cheryl. "Introduction: Literary Studies in an Age of Environmental Crisis." Glotfelty & Fromm.

Discussion of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*

### **Unit 2**

#### **Ecocritical Theory**

Lawrence Buell - *The Future of Environmental Criticism*

Slovic, Scott. "Nature Writing and Environmental Psychology: The Interiority of Outdoor Experience." Glotfelty & Fromm 351-70.

White, Lynn, Jr. "The Historic Roots of Our Ecological Crisis." Glotfelty & Fromm 3-14.

### **Unit 3**

#### **Environmental Humanities and Postcolonial Studies**

Greg Garrard - *Ecocriticism*

Graham Huggan and Helen Tiffin - *Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature, Animals, Environment*

Rob Nixon - *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*

Discussion: Indira Sinha's *Animal's People*

### **Unit 4**

#### **Ecocritical Narratology**

*Environment and Narrative: New Directions in Econarratology* edited by Erin James and Eric Morel

Simon C. Estok - "Afterword- Tripping on the Edge of Everything: Landscape and Ecocriticism." Estok, Wang and White 209-222.

Ursula K. Heise - *Sense of Place and Sense of Planet*

## References

- Buell, Lawrence. *The Future of Environmental Criticism*. Blackwell, 2005.
- Estok, Simon C., et al, editors. *Landscape, Seascape, and the Eco-Spatial Imagination*. Routledge, 2016.
- Garrard, Greg. *Ecocriticism*. Routledge, 2004.
- Glotfelty, Cheryll and Harold Fromm, editors. *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*. U of Georgia P, 1996.
- Guha, Ramachandra. *Environmentalism: A Global History*. Penguin, 2016.
- Heise, Ursula. *Sense of Place and Sense of Planet: The Environmental Imagination of the Global*. Oxford UP, 2008.
- Huggan, Graham and Helen Tiffin. *Postcolonial Ecocriticism Literature, Animals, Environment*. Routledge, 2010.
- James, Erin and Eric Morel, editors. *Environment and Narrative: New Directions in Econarratology*. Ohio State UP, 2020.
- Nixon, Rob. *Slow Violence and Environmentalism of the Poor*. Harvard UP, 2013.