STUDIES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT
ENGLISH 482/582
4 credits

CURRENLY TAUGHT ONLY AT OSU CASCADES (UNDERGRAD ONLY)

Rationale for conversion: The conversion will promote learning-intensive, integration of digital resources for the study of the American Literature and environment, such as online archives on writers, movements, and text variants. At least one assignment added will focus on integration of digital scholarship.

The four credit version will:
- Add instruction in research methodology appropriate to the use of digital and print resources in the multi-disciplinary study of American literature, culture, and the environment.
- Add a written assignment to integrate digital scholarship.

The core syllabus reflects the three credit version recently taught.

Course Description:
Creative nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and film from the middle 19th century to the present, examining the development of important patterns in how the physical environment is perceived, represented, interpreted, and used in the United States. (H) PREREQS: Sophomore standing or instructor approval required.

Student learning outcomes:
- Students will be able to recognize a complex lineage of writing, visual art, and film engaging the environment within American culture.
- Students will gain the competence necessary to engage in contemporary discussions about the environment in an informed way through formal and informal writing strategies.
- Through these various writing strategies and an ongoing revision process, students will become better writers.
- Through class discussion and group presentations, students will learn to work collaboratively and present ideas and arguments verbally.
- Search, access, and integrate digital scholarship in the study of American literature and environment and its relation to history and culture.

Evaluation of student performance: two 10-12 page essays (33% each), at least one of which incorporates digital scholarship and/or online archival material on gender in the study of American literature and environment; final exam (33%)

Statement Regarding Disability Access Services:
Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty, and Disability Access Services (DAS). Students with accommodations approved through DAS are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the
term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through DAS should contact DAS immediately at 737-4098.

**Link to Statement of Expectations for Student Conduct:**
http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/achon.htm

**Required Texts:**
Masumoto, David Mas. *Epitaph for a Peach: Four Seasons on My Family Farm*. San Francisco:

**Occasional Photocopied and reserve Material**

**Books On Reserve:**
Buell, Lawrence. *Writing for an Endangered World: Literature, Culture, and Environment in the U.S. and Beyond*

**Course Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading/Text</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Ralph Waldo Emerson, <em>Nature</em>.</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Film, <em>The Idea of Wilderness</em></td>
<td>John Muir, <em>My First Summer in the Sierra</em>, Ch. 1-4</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
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<td>Muir, <em>First Summer</em>; Ch 5-11</td>
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| Week 6 | John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*, 1-156  
|        | Steinbeck, *Grapes* 157-443 |
| Week 7 | Steinbeck, *Grapes* 444-619  
|        | Discussion of water in the West (Handout from Marc Reisner, *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water*)  
|        | Film: *Chinatown* |
| Week 8 | Film: *Chinatown*  
|        | Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring* 155-297  
|        | Lauret Savoy and Alison Deming, *The Colors of Nature* |
| Week 9 | Carson, *Silent Spring* 155-297  
|        | Lauret Savoy and Alison Deming, *The Colors of Nature* |
| Week 10 | David Mas Masumoto, *Epitaph for a Peach*, 1-130  
|        | Masumoto, *Peach* 130-233 |