Spring 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Susan Egenolf
Course: ENGL 202
Title: Environmental Literature

Description: This course foregrounds writings that focus on the relationship of human beings to the rest of the natural world. We will study a range of texts in the genres of fiction, creative non-fiction, film, essay, landscape paintings and poetry that examine this relationship between humans, other animals, and the environment. We'll think about how humans represent nature and the human relationship to essential resources, including food, water and fuel. We'll also think about how we might understand ourselves as within or without the natural world. We will read and analyze the course texts, making connections with contemporary environmental issues and attending to different approaches of eco-criticism.

Proposed Readings: Texts could include Jonathan Swift's “A Modest Proposal” (1729), Jeff VanderMeer’s *The Strange Bird* (2017), Ruth Ozeki's *My Year of Meats* (1998), Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural history of Four Meals* (2006), and *Wall-E* (2008 film). We'll read selections from Annie Dillard, Rick Bass, Henry David Thoreau, Val Plumwood, Alice Walker and David Quammen. We'll also study the relationship of indigenous peoples with the natural world as expressed by writers Linda Hogan, Louise Erdrich, N. Scott Momaday, and Leslie Marmon Silko.