

FW 2023-24

AP/EN 4061 3.0M (W)	Ecocriticism: Environmental Justice Literature
Course Director:	Prof. Katarina O’Brian Office: 620 Atkinson Phone: Ext. 22147 Email: kobriain@yorku.ca
Time:	Mondays, 11:30–2:30
Delivery Format:	SEMINAR
Description:	This course engages a range of environmental writing from the 17th to the 21st century. We will consider how early modern discourses of enclosure, extractivism, and colonialism have extended into our present moment; how minoritized and exploited writers reimagine nature, freedom, and possibility; and how discourses of ecological consciousness and political ecology have changed or endured over time. Literary and cultural texts will be read alongside recent ecocriticism and theory — including perspectives from geography, history, anthropology, and geology, as well as literary criticism — with a specific focus on Black, Indigenous, and Global South critiques of Anthropocene discourse. Ongoing themes and concerns will include scales of time and space; questions of agency, empathy, and responsibility; queer ecologies; land and water rights; the uneven distribution of ecological harms; nonhuman relationality; climate change and the problem of attention; aesthetics of salvaging and repair; and catastrophic realism, among many others.
Category:	A
Historical Requirement:	N/A
Requirements:	Essay 1 (1250 words), 20% Essay 2 (2250 words), 30% Seminar Presentation, 15% Participation & Forum Posts, 15% Final Exam, 20%
Reading List:	Shani Mootoo, <i>Cereus Blooms at Night</i> Ken Saro-Wiwa, <i>A Month and a Day: A Detention Diary</i> Kidlat Tahimik, <i>Perfumed Nightmare (Mababangong Bangungot)</i> Jamaica Kincaid, <i>My Garden (Book)</i> Indra Sinha, <i>Animal’s People</i> Tommy Pico, <i>Nature Poem</i> Craig Santos Perez, <i>Habitat Threshold</i> Brief selections from Anne Finch, Phillis Wheatley, Bamewawagezhikaquay/Jane Johnston Schoolcraft will be available as PDFs — along with criticism and theory by Dipesh

	Chakrabarty, Amitav Ghosh, Kathryn Yusoff, Katherine McKittrick and Sylvia Wynter, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Zoe Todd and Heather Davis, Catriona Sandilands, Rob Nixon, Julietta Singh, Debjani Ganguly, Min Hyoung Song, Max Liboiron, and others.
Open To:	Year 4 Honours (EN, ENPR and CRWR students only)