Thoreau and Darwin are well-known as nineteenth-century cultural icons of literature and science, respectively. But Thoreau also became a professional naturalist in the second half of his career; and, before 1859, Darwin was best known as the author of a travel narrative, *Journal of Researches*, Thoreau’s preferred genre. While this seminar is primarily focused on Thoreau’s career as an environmental writer, situating his work alongside Darwin’s will enable us to consider his writing in relation to wide-ranging transatlantic debates over natural knowledge, as these have been recovered by the last two generations of science historians. Besides evolution, those debates concerned issues of cultural authority, the variety of audiences for science writing (broadly defined), and the loss of a knowledge commons.

**Required Texts**

**Written/Oral Work and Grading**
(Deadlines below refer to hardcopies submitted at the beginning of seminar unless otherwise indicated; guidelines for written assignments will be distributed separately.)

- Short paper on *A Week* passage, January 30 (Week 4) [150 pts]
- Critical article presentation (10-12 minutes), Weeks 3-7 [150]
- Paper Prospectus, with bibliography, 5pm Monday, Feb 17 (beginning Week 7) [100]
- Draft of first 7 pp. of final paper, Week 9 [150]
- Paper presentation (10-12 minutes), March 5 (Week 9) [150]
- Final paper (10-12 pp.) 12 noon, March 22 (Week 11) [300]

**Schedule of Topics and Readings**
[BB = on Blackboard; NCE = Thoreau, Norton Critical Edition]
Week 1
1/9 Introductions, course business, and bibliographical resources;
Readings: Darwin, “The Struggle for Existence” (1859); Thoreau, “The Succession of Forest Trees” (1860); Jonathan Hodge, “Against ‘Revolution’ and ‘Evolution’” (2005); Dana Phillips, “‘This Slimy, Beastly Life’: Thoreau on Food and Farming” (2012)

Week 2
1/16 Readings

Week 3
1/23 Readings


Week 4
1/30 Readings
Thoreau, “Ktaadn and the Maine Woods” (1848) [BB]; *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*, “Concord River” through “Tuesday” (1849)

Short paper due

Week 5
2/6 Readings
Thoreau, *A Week*, “Wednesday” through “Friday;” *Walden* Journal selections [NCE 319-344] (1845-47); *Walden*, “Economy” through “The Village” (1854)

Two Presentations: presenters’ choice

Week 6
2/13 Readings

Three Presentations: (1) two-person team on the 1851 Journal; (2) Lorraine Daston, “Objectivity and the Flight from Perspective” (1992); (3) Neill Matheson, “Thoreau’s Inner Animal” (2012)
Final paper prospectus w/ bibliography due next Monday, Feb 17 5pm via email

Week 7
2/20 Readings
Thoreau, “Autumnal Tints” (1858-62) [BB], “Wild Apples” (1860-62), “Walking” (1851-62) [NCE]


Week 8
2/27 Readings
Thoreau, Cape Cod (1866)

Week 9
3/5 Mini-conference: Paper presentations
First 7 pp. of final paper due this week

Week 10
3/12 C19 Conference--No Class

Finals Week
Final Papers DUE (in hardcopy) by 12 noon March 22 in 363 PLC or Prof Rossi’s mailbox

ADDITIONAL EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation and Attendance
Regular and productive class participation is expected in graduate seminars. Participation will be evaluated +, ✓, or -, where a plus = points added to and a minus = points deducted from the final grade. Missing more than one session will result in a reduction of one-fourth of the final grade for each absence.

Plagiarism
You are expected to abide by university regulations on the proper acknowledgement of source material, and to follow accepted conventions for the correct scholarly presentation of research papers. The university’s student conduct code is posted here: [http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx]. Be sure to consult it if you have any questions about this.

Late papers/undelivered presentations
I will deduct one-half of a letter grade for each day, including Saturday and Sunday, that a paper is late (that is, after noon Friday, unless otherwise specified). I will not accept papers after five days (Tuesday, in most cases). Failure to deliver any assigned presentation will result in a two-thirds letter grade deduction from the final grade. Extensions may be possible under some circumstances. But we will need to discuss this as far in advance of the due date as possible.

**Disability**
If you have a documented disability and will need accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to discuss this with me as soon as possible. Also please request that the Counselor for Students with Disabilities send a letter outlining your approved accommodations. Counselors can be contacted at Disability Services [http://ds.uoregon.edu/], 346-1155.