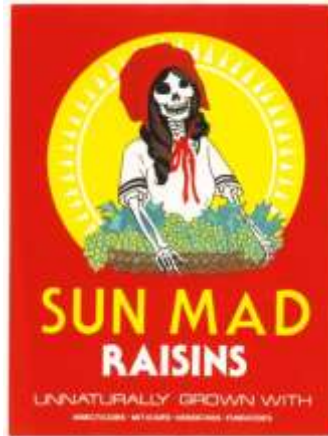


Dr. Sarah D. Wald
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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30pm-6:30pm
Sign Up for Office Hours: <https://goo.gl/ZUocxh>

ENGLISH 230: **ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE**



T/TH 2:00-3:20pm, Lillis Hall 175
Fall 2019

Course Description

This class explores depictions of the environment in literature with an emphasis on contemporary U.S. fiction. By attending to the depictions of nature and the environment in literature, this class introduces ecocriticism. Ecocriticism is a way of reading literature that foregrounds the role of nature in the texts. What does a particular text suggest about nature or the environment? How do depictions of nature or the environment function in the text? How do ideas about race, gender, and class inflect the ways literature represents nature or the environment? We will pay particular attention to issues of toxicity and environmental justice in this class.

Learning Objectives

1. Read environmental literature with discernment and comprehension and with an understanding of its conventions.
2. Perform critical, formal analyses of environmental literary texts.
3. Employ logic, creativity, and interpretive skills to produce original, persuasive arguments.
4. Employ primary sources, with proper acknowledgment and citation, as they contribute to a critical essay's thesis.

Required Texts

- Helena María Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus* (in bookstore; on reserve in Knight Library)
- Karen Tei Yamashita, *Through the Arc of the Rainforest* (in bookstore; on reserve in Knight Library)
- Ruth Ozeki, *My Year of Meats* (in bookstore; on reserve in Knight Library)

Course Assessment

- Attendance (Required)
 - Attendance is required for this course. It is impossible to replicate the learning and assessment that occurs during class time. You may miss two classes without penalty. Your third absence will lower your grade by 2.5 points. Additional absences will lower your grade by 5 points each. Missing more than five classes is grounds for failing the class. In the case of family or medical emergency, please be in communication with Prof. Wald.
- Participation, 10%
 - To receive an A, you should attend every (or almost every) class, arrive on time, bring a copy of the readings, contribute thoughtfully to the discussion, and actively participate in group and individual activities. Contributing thoughtfully means that you pose questions and provide answers that reflect your careful reading of the material, including directly referencing passages in the reading. In responding to your peers' observations, questions, and interpretations, you engage with the substance of their ideas and model respectful disagreement. In your questions, comments, and critiques, you show a willingness to take intellectual risks. You remain focused and fully engage with any work (including group work) assigned during class. Your contributions develop bridges between different class sessions, contributing to a conversation that spans the quarter.
- Online Class, 5%
 - Class will be held online on Thursday, November 7th, 2019. 5% of your grade will be based on the quality of your engagement with the online session.
- Short Responses, 25%
 - There will be five short responses due during the quarter. Each of these responses will be due prior to class on a **Thursday**. Each response is worth 5% of your final grade. Responses will be graded on a scale of 1-5. These assignments will be due on Canvas prior to the start of class.
- Close Reading Papers, 60%
 - You will write three short papers during the quarter. They will be no weekly responses on weeks with papers due. Each close reading paper will be 3-5 pages long. You will be given 2-3 prompts from which to select for each paper. Prompts will be distributed at least one week before the paper is due. Each paper will be worth 20% of your grade. Formatting instructions for the papers will be distributed separately and must be followed. Please see the English Department's Undergraduate Grading Expectations sheet posted on Canvas for a rubric.

Grading Scheme

	B + (< 90% - 87%)	C + (< 80% - 77%)	D + (< 70% - 67%)	
A (100% - 94%)	B (< 87% - 84%)	C (< 77% - 74%)	D (< 67% - 64%)	F (<60%)
A - (< 94% - 90%)	B - (< 84% - 80%)	C - (< 74% - 70%)	D - (< 64% - 60%)	

Class Outline and Schedule

Week One

T, 10/1: Introduction

Th, 10/3: Sarah Orne Jewett, "A White Heron"

Short Response One Due

Week Two

T, 10/8: Rachel Carson, "A Fable for Tomorrow," "The Obligation to Endure," and "And No Birds Sing," From *Silent Spring*

Th, 10/10: Selections from Terry Tempest Williams's *Refuge*

Short Response Two Due

Week Three

T, 10/15: Helena María Viramontes, *Under the Feet of Jesus*, Part 1-2

Th, 10/17: *Under the Feet of Jesus*, Part 3

Short Response Three Due

Week Four

M, 10/21: Required Special Event - Helena María Viramontes's public talk at 4pm in EMU Ballroom

T, 10/22: Special Guest, Helena María Viramontes.

CLASS MEETS IN CRATER LAKE NORTH AND SOUTH, EMU

Under the Feet of Jesus, Part 4-5

Th, 10/24: Viramontes's *Under the Feet of Jesus*, Part 4-5

Short Response Four Due

Week Five

T, 10/29: Class visit to the JSMA, "Resistance as Power: A Curatorial Response to Under the Feet of Jesus."

<https://jsma.uoregon.edu/ResistanceAsPower>

Paper One Due

Th, 10/31: Karen Tei Yamashita, *Through the Arc of the Rainforest*, Part I

Week Six

T, 11/5: Karen Tei Yamashita, *Through the Arc of the Rainforest*, Part II-III

Th, 11/7: ONLINE CLASS

Karen Tei Yamashita, *Through the Arc of the Rainforest*, Part IV

Week Seven

11/12: Karen Tei Yamashita, *Through the Arc of the Rainforest*, Part V-VI

11/14: *Blue Vinyl*

Paper Two Due before class

Week Eight

T, 11/19: *Blue Vinyl*

Th, 11/21: Ruth Ozeki's *My Year of Meats*, 1-120.

Short Response Five Due

Week Nine

T, 11/26: Ruth Ozeki's *My Year of Meats*, 121-198.

Th, 11/28: **No Class**

Week Ten

T, 12/3: Ruth Ozeki's *My Year of Meats*, 199-END

Th, 12/5: Ruth Ozeki's *My Year of Meats*

Paper Three Due before class

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Accessible Education: The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please consult with the Prof. Wald if aspects of the instruction or course design results in barriers to your participation. Students are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (AEC) 541-346-1155; <http://aec.uoregon.edu/>. AEC helps provide services including sign language interpreting, computer-based note-taking, classroom relocation, exam modifications, and alternative text conversion. Please request that the Accessible Education Center send Prof. Wald a letter outlining your accommodations.

Basic Needs: Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students Office (346-3216, 164 Oregon Hall) for support. Furthermore, if you are comfortable doing so, please let me know about your situation so I can help point you in the right direction for assistance.

Preferred First Name: The University of Oregon has a preferred first name policy. According to this policy, a student or employee's preferred first name will be used in university communications and reporting except where the use of the legal name is required for university purposes. If you have reasons to believe your preferred first name may not be listed correctly in the roster or you do not feel comfortable taking advantage of UO's preferred first name policy, please communicate the name you wish to use to Prof. Wald and your GE. The preferred first name policy can be accessed here: <http://policies.uoregon.edu/node/216>

Responding to Bias: You have the right to learn, work, and live in an environment free of discrimination and hate. UO has gathered resources for students, faculty, and staff to report bias incidents or find support following bias incidents here: <https://respect.uoregon.edu/>

Safe Ride: (541) 346-7433 extension 2. Safe Ride provides free, inclusive, and accessible alternatives to traveling alone at night for UO students, faculty, and staff. It is a schedule-ahead service. Safe Ride is a feminist, 'for-the-students/by-the-students' organization and operate out of the Women's Center in EMU 12F. For more information: <http://pages.uoregon.edu/saferide/>

Sexual Assault Support Services: 541-346-SAFE is 24/7 hotline is staffed by confidential, trained counselors. For confidential help, Students may also contact University Health Services (<http://healthcenter.uoregon.edu/>) or Sexual Assault Support Services (<http://sass-lane.org/>) for confidential help

Teaching and Learning Center: You are encouraged to take advantage of the resources offered by the Teaching and Learning Center. They offer individual and small group tutoring, writing assistance, and a variety of other support programs. <http://tlc.uoregon.edu>, 541-346-3226, 4th Floor of the Knight Library

COURSE POLICIES/EXPECTATIONS

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to adhere to University of Oregon's standards of academic integrity. All work should be your own, and all sources should be appropriately acknowledged. Violations of academic integrity include plagiarism, duplicate submission, cheating on examinations, and false citations. Please do not hesitate to speak to me if you have any questions about use of sources or citations. Please read the Academic Misconduct Code in full. It can be accessed at: <http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct/tabid/248/Default.aspx>

Late Work: All assignments are due prior to the start of class on Canvas. **Incompletes and extensions** will be given in the event of documented emergencies.

Inclement Weather: In the event of inclement weather, the UO home webpage (<http://www.uoregon.edu/>) will include a banner at the top of the page displaying information about delay, cancellation, or closure decisions for the Eugene campus. Additionally, the UO Alerts blog will be updated with the latest updates and bulletins. Local television and radio stations will also broadcast delay and cancellation information. Classes will not be held if cancelled by the university. Additionally, members of the campus community are expected to use their best judgment in assessing the risk of coming to campus and returning home, based on individual circumstances. **Those who believe the road conditions from home are dangerous are urged and even expected to stay there to prevent injury.**

Class Communication: The primary means of communication outside of class in this course will be through your UO email account and Canvas. Please check your UO email account and Canvas regularly.