Environmental Criticism:
More-than-human Worlds

ENGL 338
Prof. Farina

While some may think that study of the environment is the business of science, our experience of
the world around us is equally a product of cultural history, including literary writings. This course
is an introduction to a particular way of reading literary works, a way that considers how those
works condition our experience of “environments” and their inhabitants. Understanding that
conditioning is essential for rethinking our environmental and social practices, from our relations
with companion animals to our responsibility for climate change. Following the theme of “more-
than-human worlds,” we will discuss such topics as human exceptionalism, the classification of life
forms, animal and vegetal worlds, inanimate being, non-human persons, and ecological citizenship.

We will be reading quite a few works of cultural criticism (analysis) that will be available through
ecampus. You will, however, need to purchase 4-5 books for the class.

Possible readings include:

Ovid, Metamorphoses
Mary Shelly, Frankenstein
Jeff Vandermeer, The Strange Bird
Yoko Tawada, Memoirs of a Polar Bear
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Alan Moore, Swamp Thing
Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass
Juliana Spahr, This Connection of Everyone with Lungs