



GREEN WORLDS

HON 205, TuTh 2:30-3:20

Prof. L. Farina

What's it like to be a plant? To be rooted? To live for centuries or only a season? While science and philosophy offer some answers to these questions, fiction, art, and other creative practices have produced equally compelling ways of thinking about vegetal life. This course offers a history of human imagination of "green worlds," from Classical antiquity to the present, and from natural philosophy to science fiction. We will discuss human/nonhuman relations, the dramatization of botanic life, "plant horror" and human vegetality, the social life of green space, and speculative ecologies.

Literary texts and films may include Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Charles Chestnut's *The Conjure Woman*, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, Alan Moore's *Swamp Thing*, and Jeff Vandermeer's *Annihilation*. Course readings will also include works of philosophy, botany, and Indigenous plant knowledge.

Although this is an honors class, some space has been reserved for (non-honors) English majors.