

# Environmental Criticism

Spring 2021

Professor Dr. Cari Carpenter

Online synchronous meeting two days per week:

TR 2:30-3:45

Over the course of the semester, we will read works of literature conversant with popular ecocritical methodologies (such as ecofeminism, queer ecology, and postcolonial ecocriticism) and their corresponding terms. Our goals are (1) to investigate what wet environmental criticism is and does, and (2) to discover the complications and joys that arrive when we theorize how physical bodies of water – from a drop to an ocean, by flood and by drought – affect the imagination. We will pay particular attention to how Indigenous understandings contribute to environmental studies. Overall, you will understand how literature theorizes ecology as much as ecological theory informs literature, thereby revealing literature’s potential to reshape, and even redress, contemporary issues of environmental justice.



“Once in his life a man ought to concentrate his mind upon the remembered earth. He ought to give himself up to a particular landscape in his experience; to look at it from as many angles as he can, to wonder about it, to dwell upon it.”

-Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain*