American Environmental Literature, Summer 2016

Environmental Studies 160, 5:30-7:35 PM Monday & Wednesday, Girvetz 1116

Instructor: Dr. LeeAnne G. Kryder, Environmental Studies & Writing Program
kryder@writing.ucsb.edu

Office: Girvetz 1323; no phone number, but you can leave a message at Environmental Studies, Phone: 805. 893-2968

Office Hrs: Monday 4:30-5:25 PM and Thurs 4:30-5:25PM/ After class (as needed)

Mailroom: South Hall Rm 3421 (3rd floor tower, Writing Program)

Course Description code: 06536
This course assesses contributions of literary texts to American environmental movements. It examines influences of writers such as Thoreau, Rachel Carson, and Edward Abbey upon environmental perceptions, values, and attitudes in American cultural history and upon rhetoric and politics of contemporary environmental debates.

Course Texts
ES 160 Reader (available at AS Notes)  Your own nature journal
Walden; Or, Life in the Woods (Dover Thrift Edition)  A Sand County Almanac Oxford University Press,


Use the Purdue OWL (online writing lab) https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/ for APA Style

About your Instructor
Dr. LeeAnne G. Kryder serves as a co-director for UCSB’s Professional Writing Minor (business communication focus) and teaches professional writing (business, environmental, technical, and managerial) writing at UCSB. She also trains and consults with local organizations; past clients include the City of Santa Barbara (Planning Department and Administration); Raytheon; Tetra Tech; Pacific Scientific; Cottage Health System, and the Naval Facilities Engineering Services Center. Prior to this, she spent eleven years in the computer industry as a technical writer, systems analyst, and manager. In August of 2011 she won the Legacy Award from the Clean Business Investment Summit for her work mentoring student business plans and projects that help preserve the environment.

She publishes in the areas of business, technical, and environmental communication with publications including Technical Communication, Business Communication Quarterly, IEEE-Transactions on Professional Communication, the North American Environmental Education’s Communicator, and Environmental Practice. She is an author of six articles in the Encyclopedia of Business Ethics and Society (SAGE Press, 2007). Dr. Kryder serves as member of both UCSB’s Sustainability Communication Team and Academic Senate Work Group on Sustainability. Additionally, she has been awarded a New Leaf grant, and is a two-time award winner of the TGIF grant funded by student fees (thank you!)

Course Courtesies
Phones

Please turn off all cell phones during class.

Attendance

Because this is primarily a discussion class (with some lecture and films), you are expected to attend every class, and to be on schedule with your reading so that you may contribute to the class.

You will receive both attendance and participation credit for each day of class. Try to avoid being late, but if you are delayed, please come to class anyway. It’s better that you attend some of class, rather than miss it.

If you must miss class, I prefer that you send me an e-mail about this before class begins. You will miss credit for the day and any writing done in class. If you miss twice, you will likely not pass the class.

Plagiarism

Do not plagiarize. It will result in immediate failure of the assignment as well as disciplinary action by the University.

Special Needs

Extra Assistance: We want you to succeed in learning! If you experience difficulty in this course, please talk with me. Additional services are available to you through Student Services Division:

1. Campus Learning Assistance Service (893.3269) www.clas.ucsb.edu
2. Counseling & Career Services (893-4411) www.counseling.ucsb.edu
3. Disabled Students Program (DSP) (893-2668) www.sa.ucsb.edu/dsp

Assignments/ Grading

Missed class & late assignments lower grades!

Please note that this is a “W” (writing intensive) course. So, you will be writing frequently as a way to clarify your response to the literature and to polish your writing skills.

40% Attendance/Participation (short writings, including e-mail and in-class written responses; class discussion and contribution) No make-ups.

40% Journal /Document of Place (based on place journal and response to selected authors and the importance of place) See assignment for details. Your journal is private, but you must incorporate some selected, polished pieces in this Document of Place. You will be creating your own “nature writing.”

20% Final Exam, in class Week Six (no make-ups)

BEFORE Class, Day One, you need to read the first pages of Thoreau’s Walden:
Ch 1, Economy, pages 1-4 and pages 26-31 (about building his cabin at Walden).
Please bring the book Walden to class the first evening!

Summer 2016 Schedule
**Week One**

**Monday**  
June 20  
Course Overview & Introductions;  
The Importance of Place; Thoreau  
*Bring Walden to class*

**Wednesday**  
Henry D. Thoreau

*by Sunday, June 26 before Midnight*  
e-mail (to kryder@writing.ucsb.edu) a short description  
with explanation (W/H/TY selected) about the place you have chosen to observe and write about.

**Week Two**

**Monday**  
June 27  
Henry D. Thoreau &  
John Muir

**Wednesday**  
June 29  
Aldo Leopold

**Week Three**

**Monday**  
July 4  
HOLIDAY!!

**Wednesday**  
July 6  
Aldo Leopold

*e-mail polished journal entry before Sunday*  
**Midnight July 10**

**Week Four**

**Monday**  
July 11  
Carson, Abbey

**Wednesday**  
July 13  
Edward Abbey

**Week Five**

**Monday**  
July 18  
Stegner, Williams

**Wednesday**  
July 20  
Williams, Oliver

**Week Six**

**Monday**  
July 25  
Williams; Gessner; Course Evaluation  
*(Bring Journal for Review)*

**Thursday**  
July 27  
David Gessner; Course Conclusion;  
*Final Exam (Bring Journal for Review)*
Journal of Place/ Document of Place  Week One through Week Five

You are to select, visit, observe, and write about an outdoor place on UCSB land (preferably) or another local place. This assignment invites environmental writers to explore and cultivate a “dialogue” with a particular environment, and to practice field-note techniques used by natural scientists, nature writers, and environmental philosophers. Most environmental writers use journals—as did authors Thoreau, Leopold, Abbey, Williams. This experience will help you better understand the literature and those who authored it. Additionally, it should improve your writing and enhance your understanding of the importance of “place.” From your journal will come material for your own nature essay, or “document of place.”

Procedure
► Use one journal for all entries.
► Visit your location at least three times a week to write at least three entries weekly.
► Your journal entries are PRIVATE; I will not read or grade them. Don’t worry about mechanics; you are writing for yourself.* You will select one journal entry to revise and then e-mail this new, polished version to me, and later in our summer session you will polish a few more for your nature essay (“document of place”).
► Find particular organisms, objects, or other geographic features to focus your attention to your place through successive visits. Try to photograph or sketch these.
► Use your journal process to develop an interactive relationship with your place. As you begin to form a familiar relationship to this place, reflect upon it when you employ critical thinking about more general environmental concerns discussed in class.

NOTE: On, or before, Sunday, June 26, Midnight, please send me an e-mail briefly identifying “your place.” Briefly describe it and to explain why you selected it.

Journal Entry Ideas
What to write about? Well, you will simply record your observations, feelings and impressions of this place. Also, use the journal entry for a response to something you’ve read or something from class lecture/discussion. For each journal entry, note the date, time of day, weather, and any additional climatic and astronomical patterns or events you wish to track.
Other ideas: Describe a natural organism, object, or phenomenon at your place ♦ List as many flora and fauna (both native and exotic) found at your place. ♦ Describe changes in a single natural organism, object, or phenomenon observed over several weeks in your visits. ♦ Select passages you’ve liked from several of our readings; how do they confirm or challenge the feelings you have about your place? ♦ Consider “remediation” at your place; is there anything that needs to be restored to its natural state?

*Later, you will “mine” these entries, using polished versions to construct a paper about “place” in your experience and in selected authors’ writing (DUE: before Midnight Saturday July 23)