

Dr. Amy Tigner
 Office Hours: M 5-6 p.m. W 11-12 a.m.
 English 6330 sec. 1
 Preston 301; 6-8:50 p.m.

Early Modern Environmental Thinking

With global warming, rising water pollution, and other environmental issues, we are increasingly concerned with the ecology of the earth and how we conceptualize and interact with nature. These concerns appear to be contemporary problems begun in the industrial era, yet indeed ecological trauma has had a long history. England in the 16th and 17th centuries suffered greatly from environmental degradation: deforestation, air and water pollution, climate change, war-torn agricultural fields, and raw sewage. In this course, we will consider the various pressures on the natural environment in the early modern period and investigate the varying responses: from tract writings that argued for ecological reforms to the literature that re-conceptualized this small island country as a new Eden. Understanding these intellectual responses in the past contextualizes and informs our present thinking about our world in crisis.

This syllabus is subject to mercurial change by the capricious instructor.

Date	Primary Material	Secondary Material	Assignments
Mon. Aug 24 Theoretical Groundings		Keith Thomas <i>Man and the Natural World</i> Karen Raber: “Recent Ecocritical Studies of English Renaissance Literature	
Aug 31 Theoretical Groundings 2		<i>The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution</i> by Carolyn Merchant	(Group A) Critical Commentary 500 words (You can also write about Keith Thomas if you prefer)
Sept 7 No class Labor Day			

Sept 14 Theoretical Groundings #3		Gabriel Egan Chapter one “Eco politics/ ecocriticism” Robert Watson <i>Back to Nature</i> Chapter one “Ecology, Epistemology, and Empiricism” Silvia Bowerbank <i>Speaking for Nature</i> Introduction, “Toward a Genealogy of Ecological Feminism”	(Group B) Critical Commentary 500 words
Sept 21 Environmental Stress II: Storms and the Sea	<i>The Tempest</i>	Edward Test “ <i>The Tempest</i> and the Newfoundland Cod Fishery”	(Group A) Critical Commentary 500 words
Sept 28 Edenic Imagination Pastoral	<i>As You Like It</i>	Robert Watson’s <i>Back to Nature</i> , Chapter 3, “As You Liken It” Gabriel Egan’s <i>Green Shakespeare</i> “Food and Biological Nature: As you like it, Antony and Cleopatra, Pericles, Cymbeline, and The Winter’s Tale”	(Group B) Critical Commentary 500 words
Oct 5 Edenic Imagination Gardens	<i>Richard II</i>	Helen Ostovich, “Here in this Garden...”	(Group A) Critical Commentary 500 words
Oct 12 Edenic Imagination Herball and Botanical Gardens	John Gerard’s <i>Herball</i> John Parkinson’s <i>Paradisi in Sole</i> Available on EEBO (Early English Books	Bushnell Chapter 2 “The Printed Garden” Article from Rebecca LaRouche’s book.	(Group B) Critical Commentary 500 words

	Online, through the library databases)		
	Elizabeth Isham		
Oct 15	Special Graduate Seminar for Early Modern Studies and Ecological research, given by Robert Markley 2-4 pm		
Oct 16 and 17	Hermanns Lecture Series: "Greening English Studies" Speakers on Friday and Roundtable on Saturday		
Oct 19 Alternative environments	Margaret Cavendish "The Blazing World"	Bowerbank, Chapter 2 "Nature as Trickster "The Philosophical Laughter of Margaret Cavendish" Donna Landry, "Green Language: Women Poets as Naturalists in 1653 and 1807," in <i>Forging Connections: Women's Poetry from the Renaissance to Romanticism</i> , ed. Anne K. Mellor, Felicity Nussbaum, and Jonathan F. S. Post (2002), pp. 39–61?? Order ILL 3/12/09	(Group A) Critical Commentary 500 words
Oct 22-25 GEMCS conference in Dallas "Tracing Footprints"	I would like for you to attend this conference, as much as possible. I think that you will be able to work the		

	conference and then get in for no registration cost.		
Oct 26 Enclosure Acts and Poetic responses	Andrew Marvell Selected poems	Cristina Malcolmson, "The Garden Enclosed/The Woman Enclosed: Marvell and the Cavalier Poets," pp. 251–69 and Jonathan Crewe The "Garden State: Marvell's Poetics of Enclosure," in <i>Enclosure Acts: Sexuality, Property and Culture in Early Modern England</i> , ed. Richard Burt and John Michael Archer (1994). Robert Watson's chapter 4 "Shades of Green: Marvell's Garden and the Mowers"	(Group B) Critical Commentary 500 words
Nov 2	John Milton <i>Paradise Lost</i>	Barbara Lewalski "Innocence and Experience..." Diane McColley Milton and Ecology	350 word Abstract due/ Annotated Bibliography of at least 10 sources
Nov 9 Environmental Stresses Agricultural Reform Air Pollution	John Milton <i>Paradise Lost</i> <i>Dedication of Ralph Austin's Treatise of Fruit Trees</i> Available on EEBO (Early English Books Online, through the library databases)	Diane McColley "The Hand of Eve": Ingredients of Virtue" in <i>Milton's Eve</i> . Michael Pollan "Desire: Sweetness Plant: The Apple" in <i>The Botany of Desire</i>	

Nov. 16 Workshop on writing			10 page Draft of final paper and Bibliography due
Nov 23			Revision process
Nov 30 Class Conference			7 page conference paper
Dec. 7			Final 15-20 page paper due at high noon

Texts:

I am not ordering a specific Shakespeare text, but you should be using a good scholarly edition: Norton, Cambridge, Oxford, or Arden. Check with me if you are unsure of your edition. You want to be sure that the edition has good quality notes and introductions.

Paradise Lost (Penguin Classics) (Paperback)

by John Milton (Author), John Leonard

Penguin Classics (April 29, 2003)

ISBN-10: 0140424393

ISBN-13: 978-0140424393

Margaret Cavendish (Author), Kate Lilley (Editor, Introduction)

The Blazing World and Other Writings (Penguin Classics) (Paperback)

Publisher: Penguin Classics (October 1, 1994)

ISBN-10: 0140433724

ISBN-13: 978-0140433722

The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution (Paperback)

by Carolyn Merchant

Harper and Row (January 10, 1990)

ISBN-10: 0062505955

ISBN-13: 978-0062505958

Keith Thomas *Man and the Natural World: Changing Attitudes in England 1500-1800* (Paperback)

Penguin Books Ltd (September 26, 1991)

ISBN-10: 0140146865

ISBN-13: 978-0140146868

Commentaries: You need to write four critical commentaries, one from each of the groups (A and B); the commentaries should be a minimum of 500 words and a maximum of 600 words. The critical commentaries should be argumentative in nature and should address one or more of the primary and/or secondary readings for that day. You can think about the commentaries as a place to explore ideas and possibly to germinate your larger paper topic. These smaller papers also give you a chance to get your writing juices going and for you to get feedback from me early on in the process.

(Ostovich; Lewalski)

Bibliography

Lewalski, Barbara Keiffer. "Innocence and Experience in Milton's Eden." New Essays on *Paradise Lost*. Ed. Thomas Kranidas. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1971. 86-117.

Ostovich, Helen. "'Here in 'This Garden': The Iconography of the Virgin Queen in Shakespeare's *Richard II*." Marian Moments in Early Modern British Drama. Ed. Regina Buccolar and Lisa Hopkins. Aldershot, Hampshire; Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2007.