

ENG 4110: Literature Practicum Campus Woods—Ecology & Place Fall 2022, TR 9:30 – 10:50 a.m. 286 Millett	Professor: Dr. Hope Jennings Office Hours: Tues 11:00-12:00 pm or By Appointment (online/in-person) Office: 451 Millett Hall E-mail: hope.jennings@wright.edu
--	--

COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS

In this course we will be exploring the WSU Campus Woods as a central but often overlooked site of ecological, historical, and communal importance for the university. In our explorations of the campus woods, we will think about the connections between wilderness concepts, environmental ethics and place histories, ecology and conservation, and the importance of outdoor spaces for recreation and public health. We will also examine how these concepts and topics are entangled with issues of race, gender, and disability. Students will engage with the Campus Woods archives and they will have the opportunity to learn from guest speakers in the fields of ecology, conservation biology, and communication studies. Various assignments and class activities will provide students with opportunities to: work independently, collaboratively, and creatively on multi-modal texts; write in contexts beyond traditional academic essays; and explore new media technologies that might be used in a professional environment. Throughout the semester, students will design and update their own individual websites, where they will post completed assignments and other course-related materials. Assigned readings will be in fiction and non-fiction, with all readings available in Pilot (see class calendar for reading schedule and assignment deadlines).

COURSE OUTCOMES

As indicators of successful achievement of the course goals, students will:

1. demonstrate, through oral and written responses, the ability to work independently, collaboratively, and creatively;
2. apply disciplinary knowledge and skill in critical thinking, reading, and writing in vocational or community-based contexts;
3. describe a cultural object such as a literary text;
4. create a visually interesting and informative digital object from a literary text;
5. write a public-facing criticism essay or similar document.

COURSE EVALUATION

Grades are based on the following points (1,000 total)

Participation	150
Woods Journal	100
Wilderness Reflection	150
Place History	150
Eco-Narrative	150
Recreation Materials	200
Presentation	100

Grading Scale:	
90-100%	= A
80-89%	= B
70-79%	= C
60-69%	= D
0-59%	= F

Participation (15%): Students are expected to attend class fully prepared to contribute to discussion, which includes completing all reading assigned for that day, responding to questions, and engaging respectfully with peers. If you meet all these expectations then you will receive full credit (FC/fully present); if you are clearly unprepared or unwilling to participate, arrive late or leave early, you will receive partial credit (PC/non-participatory); if you are absent or engage in any disruptive behaviors (see general conduct rules below), you will receive no credit (NC/absent). Simply showing up to class does not mean you are fully present, and absences are factored into your final participation grade, which is based on the average of points that you have earned for the semester. You can keep track of your participation points in Pilot by clicking on the Attendance tab and selecting "Participation." **NB:** Several class meetings will take place outdoors in the campus woods; if you have any health or mobility concerns, please let me know so we can make accommodations.

Attendance Policy: *Missing more than 6 classes, including partially missed classes, will lead to at least a full letter grade deduction (100 points) from your overall final grade for the course. I am flexible with the need for excused absences due to illness, personal or family emergency, or occasional scheduling conflicts, as long as you communicate with me before class (if possible) and/or do not repeatedly ask for excused absences throughout the semester.*

All written assignments will be posted to your website and should include visual and/or digital media elements, as per assignment genre and subject. Detailed guidelines and rubrics for all assignments, including setting up your website, are available on the course website.

Woods Journal (10%): Students will write a series of informal journal entries recounting their walks in the woods (during class visits and/or individual visits), documenting sections of the woods visited, observations of wildlife, personal reactions/thoughts/questions. You are required to write at least one journal entry (min. 300 words) for each unit, for a total of four entries worth 25 pts/each.

Wilderness Reflection (15%): Students will write a short public-facing essay reflecting on wilderness concepts, as explored in class readings and discussion and through their personal perspectives and/or experiences in relationship to wilderness spaces. Minimum 1,000-1,500 words.

Place History (15%): Using the Campus Woods archive (in Pilot), as well as other resources, students will research and write about a specific aspect of the historical significance of the Campus Woods and its relation to environmental history. Minimum 1,000-1,500 words.

Eco-Narrative (15%): Students will research 2-3 nonhuman species within the Campus Woods to write a narrative that explores relations between these species through ecological concepts of entanglement, biodiversity, and mutualism. Minimum 1,000-1,500 words.

Recreation Materials (20%): Working individually or collaboratively, students will create a variety of materials (for example, maps, brochures, infographs, videos, podcasts) promoting the Campus Woods and its recreational/public health benefits for the community. Materials should also incorporate or address issues of accessibility, inclusion, diversity, and equity.

Presentation (10%): In the last week of the semester, students will present their websites while offering a reflection on their experience of this class. Presentation length should be about 10-15 minutes (depending on the number of students/presentations).

CLASS CALENDAR

See Class Calendar on course website for schedule of reading assignments and writing deadlines.

WEEK 1—Intro to the Class and the Campus Woods

WEEKS 2-4—Unit One: Wilderness Concepts—Conquest, Preservation, and Extinction

WEEKS 5-7—Unit Two: Environmental Ethics and Place Histories

WEEKS 8-10—Unit Three: Ecology and Conservation

WEEKS 11-13—Unit Four: “The Great Outdoors”—Recreation, Diversity, and Public Health

WEEK 14-15— Website Workshops and Presentations

EXAM WEEK—Final Website Due

GENERAL EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR ALL WRITTEN WORK

- A = Demonstrates advanced critical thinking skills and outstanding knowledge of the readings and course content. Ideas are original and depth of analysis is excellent. Writing is clear, concise, free of basic errors, easy to follow **and** shows excellent command of language and disciplinary style.
 - B = Demonstrates critical thinking and familiarity with readings and course content; provides relevant examples. Writing is coherent, concise, easy to follow, and **nearly** free of basic errors.
 - C = Demonstrates basic understanding of the readings and other course content and can provide a good summary of material but only provides superficial analysis and support for issues raised. Writing is coherent and easy to follow but wordy, repetitious and/or marred by numerous errors.
 - D = Demonstrates minimal understanding of readings and course content; ideas are vague or not supported by any analysis and shows overall lack of effort. Writing lacks general coherence and shows little to no command of the English language.
 - F = Demonstrates serious lack of understanding of readings and other course content; serious lack of analysis and/or effort. Writing is incoherent and impossible to follow
-

ACADEMIC HONESTY GUIDELINES & POLICY

Penalties for academic dishonesty and student procedure in academic dishonesty prosecution are clarified in the *Wright State University Student Handbook* and on the Office of Community Standards & Student Conduct website at: <http://www.wright.edu/students/judicial/integrity.html>. Plagiarism is using other people’s ideas and/or words without crediting them, and is considered intellectual theft; paraphrasing also requires citations and page numbers. For further information about plagiarism, refer to: <http://www.wright.edu/academics/writingctr/resources/plagiarism.html>.

INSTRUCTOR POLICY ON PLAGIARISM: If any portion of submitted work is plagiarized, you will receive a “0” on that assignment; if you commit a second offense, regardless of circumstances, you will receive an F for the entire course and may be subject to disciplinary action.

GENERAL CONDUCT & COURSE POLICIES

NB: Failure to follow these guidelines may lead to dismissal from the class.

- You are expected to compose yourself as if in a professional environment. This includes attending class regularly and on time, being prepared for each class session, and contributing to course requirements as if you were in a workplace. Unprofessional behavior will imperil your ability to get a good grade, but also your ability to receive a letter of recommendation from me should the

need arise. I request that you address me as Dr. Jennings and not by first name. For some of the contexts and reasons behind this general preference and standard of professional etiquette, I recommend reading this *New York Times* essay: "[U Can't Talk to Ur Professor Like This](#)".

- Respect toward peers and the instructor includes active listening, even if your views differ, and refraining from bigotry and intolerance toward others. Although your individual opinions about the texts and issues explored in this class are encouraged, you must be able to present your interpretations or stance through an informed lens, using critical thinking and/or verifiable evidence beyond personal beliefs or anecdotal experiences (such as reference to textual examples, reliable secondary sources, or socio-cultural, historical, and political contexts).
- You are expected to follow the class calendar and assignment guidelines. If you are confused about any of these it is your responsibility to ask for clarification, and NOT the night before something is due. I do not accept late submissions and any missing assignment will receive a zero. All submission deadlines are posted in the class calendar below as well as in Pilot.
- Extensions are granted ONLY in extreme cases of illness or emergency, which must be documented and, if possible, communicated to me *before* the due date and not after the missed deadline. Regardless of circumstances, I reserve the right to deny any requests for extensions and will only grant incompletes to students who have consistently attended class and are missing no more than 1-2 assignments. I do not offer individual extra credit opportunities; extra credit assignments are only provided as an option available to the entire class.
- Raider Mail is the best way to communicate with me. You can expect to receive a reply within a 24-hour period on weekdays; I normally do not respond to e-mail on weekends. Check the newsfeed on the course homepage in Pilot for any class updates or info. If I make changes to the syllabus or class calendar, I explain these in class and post them in Pilot.

USEFUL CAMPUS & ONLINE RESOURCES

University Writing Center: The Writing Center (031 Library) provides individualized writing consultation at no cost to students. If you meet with a writing tutor, be sure to bring a copy of your assignment with you. For more information, call 775-4186. Or visit the Writing Center's Web page: <http://www.wright.edu/uc/success/services/writing-center.html>

University Libraries: The University Libraries are the scholarly information center for the University. In support of the University's mission of educational excellence, the Libraries collect, organize, preserve, and facilitate access to scholarly resources in all formats; support teaching, learning, and research in an intellectually open environment; and provide instruction in the use of traditional and new information resources and technologies. The libraries' online catalog, databases, and interlibrary loan service is essential for conducting research. Web page: <https://www.libraries.wright.edu/>

OWL at Purdue: The Online Writing Lab (OWL) at Purdue University houses writing resources and instructional material, and provides these as a free service to assist with many writing projects. Resources include teaching and tutoring, guidelines on general and subject-specific writing tips, and how to conduct, use, and cite research. Web page: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> and MLA Style guidelines: <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Counseling and Wellness Services: If you are suffering from depression or have any other mental health concerns, please be aware that counseling services are available on campus. Counseling and Wellness offers a wide range of services to the Wright State University community, including the following: group, individual, couples, and family counseling, crisis intervention, and outreach. They offer specialized services on a variety of mental health, multicultural, diversity, and wellness issues. Location: the bottom level of the Student Union off the Atrium and below the Admissions Office in suite 053. Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 775-3407 or stop by to set an appointment. Web page: <http://www.wright-counseling.com/>

Disability Services: If you require course accommodations due to a disability, please inform me so we can make arrangements early in the quarter. For more information about support services offered by Disability Services (E186 Student Union), call 775-5680; TTY: 775-5844. Or visit their Web page: http://www.wright.edu/students/dis_services/

CATS: Faculty are not experts in trouble shooting Pilot or computer programs of any type. The quickest way to resolve technical issues is by using the resources at the HELP Desk: 937-775-4827 or 1-888-775-4827.

WSU Covid-19 Response: Please regularly refer to this page for updates, policies, and information related to the Coronavirus and campus health and safety resources.

<https://www.wright.edu/coronavirus>