

HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY
 FACULTY OF LETTERS
 DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Syllabus

Title of the Course: IKA 6/718 Culture and the Environment

Instructor: Prof. Dr. Serpil OPPERMANN

Year and Term: 2016 S Fall

Class Hours and Rooms: Monday 13.00-16.45 Seminar Room

Office Hours: Monday 10:00-11:00

Aim: This graduate course will provide students with a broad foundation in contemporary ecocritical/eco-cultural studies and the Environmental Humanities. The course offers an advanced critical outlook on the current ideas about human and nonhuman relationships, nature and culture, and how their ecological interactions are articulated and contested in what came to be known as *naturecultures*. The major focus of the course will be on a broad range of ecocritical theories which foreground the interactions between human and nonhuman environments, social and environmental justice issues in relation to climate change and other ecological problems, feminist ecocritical ideas, and the relations between bodies and the environments in the age of the Anthropocene. Students will develop and articulate their own critical methodologies, using the models we discuss in class and branching off in directions of their own choice. The general aim of the course is to create environmental awareness and familiarize the students with pressing ecological problems that are also cultural problems. This course at large addresses the question posed by Cheryll Glotfelty: "How then can we contribute to environmental restoration, not just in our spare time, but from within our capacity as professors of literature?" Of course here we add: "as students of cultural studies and literature."

Course Contents: Main contents of the course will be based on various branches of ecocriticism, feminist approaches to eco-cultural problems, nature/culture dualisms, anthropocentrism and ecocentrism, cultural interpretations of non-human nature, posthumanism, and the Anthropocene debates. Class sessions will feature a mixture of student presentations and free-flowing discussion on questions at issue for environmental thought.

Required Books

- Adamson, Joni, Mei Mei Evans, and Rachel Stein, eds., *The Environmental Justice Reader*. Tucson: U of Arizona P, 2002. .
- Adamson, Joni, and Scott Slovic, eds. Special issue of *MELUS* 34.2 (Summer 2009).
- Adamson, Joni, William A. Gleason, and David N. Pellow. *Keywords For Environmental Studies*. New York: New York UP, 2016
- Alaimo, Stacy, and Susan Hekman, eds., *Material Feminisms*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2008.
- Alaimo, Stacy. *Bodily Natures: Science, Environment, and the Material Self*. Bloomington: Indianapolis: Indiana UP, 2010.
- Bennett, Jane. *Vibrant Matter: a political ecology of things*. Durham: Duke UP, 2010.
- Braidotti, Rosi. *The Posthuman*. Cambridge: Polity P, 2013
- Buell, Lawrence. *The Future of Environmental Criticism: Environmental Crisis and Literary Imagination*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005.
- Cavaleri, Paola. *The Animal Question: Why Nonhuman Animals Deserve Human Rights*. Trans. Catherine Woollard. New York: Oxford UP, 2001
- Clark, Timothy. *The Cambridge Introduction to Literature and the Environment*. New York: Cambridge UP, 2011.
- Cohen, Jeffrey Jerome and Lowell Duckert, eds. *Elemental Ecocriticism*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2015.
- Dipesh Chakrabarty. "Postcolonial Studies and the Challenge of Climate Change." *New Literary History*. 43.1 (Winter 2012): 1-18.

- Gersdorf, Catrin and Sylvia Mayer. Eds. *Nature in Literary and Cultural Studies: Transatlantic Conversations on Ecocriticism*. Amsterdam: Rodopi: 2006.
- Glottfelty, Cheryll, and Harold Fromm, eds. *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*. Athens: U of Georgia P, 1996.
- Haraway, Donna. *When Species Meet*. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2008.
- Hayles, Katherine N., *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics*. Chicago: The U of Chicago P, 1999.
- Heise, Ursula. *Sense of Place and Sense of Planet: The Environmental Imagination of the Global*. New York: Oxford UP, 2008.
- Hiltner, Ken, ed. *Ecocriticism: The Essential Reader*. New York: Routledge, 2015.
- Huggan, Graham and Helen Tiffin. *Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature, Animals, Environment*. New York: Routledge, 2010
- Iovino, Serenella and Serpil Oppermann, eds. *Material Ecocriticism*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2014.
- Mckibben, Bill. *The End of Nature*. 1989. New York: Random House, 2006
- Morton, Timothy. *The Ecological Thought*. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard UP, 2010.
- Nayar, Pramod K., *Posthumanism*. Cambridge: Polity, 2014.
- Nixon, Rob. *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP, 2011.
- Oppermann, Serpil, ed. *New International Voices in Ecocriticism*. New York: Lexington Books, 2015.
- Oppermann, Serpil and Serenella Iovino, eds. *Environmental Humanities: Voices from the Anthropocene*. New York: Rowman&LITTLEFIELD, 2016.
- Plumwood, Val. *Environmental Culture: The Ecological Crisis of Reason*. New York: Routledge, 2002.
- Sandilands, Catriona-Mortimer and Bruce Erickson. Eds. *Queer Ecologies: Sex, Nature, Politics, Desire*. Bloomington, Indianapolis: Indiana UP, 2010.
- Sturgeon, Noël. *Environmentalism in Popular Culture: Gender, Race, Sexuality, and the Politics of the Natural*. Tucson: U of Arizona P, 2009
- Swearer, Donald K., *Ecology and the Environment: Perspectives from the Humanities*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP, 2009
- Westling, Louise, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and the Environment*. New York: Cambridge UP, 2014.
- Mark Whitehead. *Environmental Transformations: A Geography of the Anthropocene*. New York: Routledge, 2014.
- Wolfe, Cary. *What is Posthumanism?* Minneapolis: The U of Minnesota P, 2010.
- Wright, Laura. *Wilderness Into Civilized Shapes: Reading the Postcolonial Environment*. Athens: The U of Georgia P, 2010.
- Zapf, Hubert, ed. *Handbook of Ecocriticism and Cultural Ecology*. Berlin/Boston: DeGruyter, 2016.

Essays to be Discussed

- Adamson, Joni, and Scott Slovic. "Guest Editors' Introduction: The Shoulders We Stand On: An Introduction to Ethnicity and Ecocriticism." Eds. Adamson and Slovic. Special issue of *MELUS* 34.2 (Summer 2009): 5-24.
- Joni Adamson. "Networking Networks and Constellating New Practices in the Environmental Humanities." *PMLA* 131.2 (2016): 347-355.
- Alaimo, Stacy. "Eluding Capture: The Science, Culture, and Pleasure of 'Queer' Animals." *Queer Ecologies: Sex, Nature, Politics, Desire*. Eds. Catriona Mortimer-Sandilands and Bruce Erickson. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2010. 51-72.
- Alaimo, Stacy. "Material Engagements: Science Studies and the Environmental Humanities." *Ecozon@* 1.1 (2010): 69-73
- Alaimo, Stacy and Susan Hekman. "Introduction: Emerging Models of Materiality in Feminist Theory." *Material Feminisms*. Eds. Stacy Alaimo and Susan Hekman. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2010. 1-19.
- Armbruster, Karla. "Thinking with Animals: Teaching Animal Studies-Based Literature Courses." *Teaching North American Environmental Literature*. Eds. Laird Christensen, Mark C. Long, and Fred Waage. New York: MLA, 2008. 72-90.
- Balaev, Michelle. "The Formation of a Field: Ecocriticism in America—An Interview with Cheryll Glottfelty." *PMLA* 127.3 (2012): 607-616.
- Barad, Karen. "Posthumanist Performativity: Toward an Understanding of How Matter Comes to Matter." *Material Feminisms*. Eds. Stacy Alaimo and Susan Hekman. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2010. 120-154.
- Barry, Peter. "Ecocriticism." *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. Manchester, UK: U of Manchester P, 2002. 248-71.
- Buell, Lawrence. "The Emergence of Environmental Criticism." Chapter 1 of *The Future of Environmental Criticism: Environmental Crisis and Literary Imagination*. Blackwell, 2005. 1-28. For notes. Pp.150-154.

- Buell, Lawrence. "The Ethics and Politics of Environmental Criticism." Chapter 4 of *The Future of Environmental Criticism: Environmental Crisis and Literary Imagination*. Blackwell, 2005. 97-127. For notes. Pp.164-169.
- Buell, Lawrence, Ursula K. Heise, and Karen Thornber. "Literature and Environment." *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* (2011) 417-40.
- Cavaliere, Paola. "The Cultural Premises." Chapter 2 in *The Animal Question: Why Nonhuman Animals Deserve Human Rights*. Trans. Catherine Woollard. New York: Oxford UP, 2001. 3-22.
- Cohen, Jeffrey Jerome and Lowell Duckert. "Introduction: Eleven Principles of the Elements." *Elemental Ecocriticism*. Ed. Jeffrey Jerome Cohen and Lowell Duckert. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 2015.
- Cohen, Jeffrey Jerome and Stephanie LeMenager. "Introduction: Assembling the Ecological Digital Humanities." *PMLA* 131.2 (2016): 340-346.
- Cohen, Michael P., "Blues in the Green: Ecocriticism." *Environmental History*. 9.1 (January 2004):10-36
- Estok, Simon. "Reading Ecophobia: A Manifesto." *Ecozon@* 1.1 (2010): 75-79.
- Estok, Simon C., "Ecocriticism in an Age of Terror." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 15.1 (2013). Web,
- Feder, Helena. "Rethinking Multiculturalism: Theory and Nonhuman Cultures." *ISLE* Special Forum on Ecocriticism and Theory. 17.4 (Autumn 2010):775-777.
- Fox, Michael Allen and Lesley McLean. "Animals in Moral Space." Chapter 7 in *Animal Subjects: An Ethical Reader in a Posthuman World*. Ed. Jodey catricano. Waterloo, Ontario: Wifrid Laurier UP, 2008. 145-175.
- Gaard, Greta. New Directions for Ecofeminism: Toward a More Feminist Ecocriticism. *ISLE*. 17.4 (Autumn 2010):643-665.
- Gaard, Greta. "Strategies for a Cross-Cultural Ecofeminist Literary Criticism." *Ecozon@* 1.1 (2010): 47-52.
- Gaard, Greta. "Feminist Animal Studies in the U.S.: Bodies Matter." *DEP* 20 (2012): 14-21
- Glotfelty, Cheryll. "Introduction: Literary Studies in an Age of Environmental Crisis." *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*. Athens: U of Georgia P, 1996. xv-xxxii.
- Heise, Ursula. "The Hitchhiker's Guide to Ecocriticism." *PMLA* 121.2 (2006). 503-16.
- Heise, Ursula K. "From the Blue Planet to Google Earth: Environmentalism, Ecocriticism, and the Imagination of the Global." Chapter 1 of *Sense of Place and Sense of Planet: The Environmental Imagination of the Global*. New York: Oxford UP, 2008. 17-67. For notes. Pp.211-216.
- Heise, Ursula K., "Postcolonial Ecocriticism and the Question of Literature." *Postcolonial Green: Environmental Politics and World Narratives*. Ed. Bonnie Roos and Alex Hunt, Charlottesville: U of Virginia P, 2010. 251-258.
- Holm, Poul, et al., "Humanities for the Environment—A Manifesto for Research and Action." *Humanities* 4.(2015): 977-992.
- Huggan, Graham and Helen Tiffin. "Introduction." *Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Literature, Animals, Environment*. New York: Routledge, 2010.1-24.
- Iovino, Serenella and Serpil Oppermann. "Introduction: Stories Come to Matter." *Material Ecocriticism*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2014. 1-17.
- Iovino, Serenella and Serpil Oppermann. "Material Ecocriticism: Materiality, Agency, and Models of Narrativity." *Ecozon@* 3.1 (2012): 75-91.
- Johnson, Loretta. "Greening the Library: The Fundamentals and Future of Ecocriticism." *CHOICE* (December 2009): 7-13.
- Kirby, Vicki. "Natural Convers(at)ions: Or, What if Culture was really Nature All Along?" Chapter 7 in *Material Feminisms*. Eds. Stacy Alaimo and Susan Hekman. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2010. 214-236.
- LeMenager, Stephanie, and Stephanie Foote. "The Sustainable Humanities." *PMLA* 127.3 (2012): 572-578
- Morton, Timothy. "Ecology as Text, Text as Ecology." *The Oxford Literary Review*. 32.1 (2010): 1-17.
- Morton, Timothy. "Guest Column: Queer Ecology." *PMLA*. 125.2 (2010): 273-282.
- Morton, Timothy. "Ecologocentrism: Unworking Animals." *SubStance* 37.3 (2008): 73-96.
- O'Brien, Susie. "Back to the World: Reading Ecocriticism in a Postcolonial Context." *Five Emus to the King of Siam: Environment and Empire*. Ed Helen Tiffin. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2007. 177-99.
- Oppermann, Serpil. "The Rhizomic Trajectory of Ecocriticism." *Ecozon@* 1.1(2010): 17-21.
- Oppermann, Serpil. "Feminist Ecocriticism: The New Ecofeminist Settlement." *Feminismo/s* 22 (December 2013): 65-88.
- Oppermann, Serpil. "Material Ecocriticism and the Creativity of Storied Matter." *Frame: Journal of Literary Studies. Spec. Issue on Ecocriticism*. 26.2 (November 2013): 55-69
- Oppermann, Serpil. "Material Ecocriticism." *Gender: Nature* [Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks: Gender]. Ed. Iris van der Tuin. Farmington Hills, MI.: Gale Cengage Learning, 2016. 89-102.
- Plumwood, Val. "The Ecological Crisis of Reason." Chapter 1 of *Environmental Culture: The Ecological Crisis of Reason*. New York: Routledge, 2002. 13-37. For notes. Pp. 242-243.

- Reed, T.V. "Toward an Environmental Justice Ecocriticism." *The Environmental Justice Reader: Politics, Poetics and Pedagogy*. Eds. Joni Adamson, Mei Mei Evans and Rachel Stein. Tuscon: The U of Arizona P, 2002. 145-162.
- Rose, Deborah Bird, Thom van Dooren, et al., "Thinking Through the Environment, Unsettling the Humanities." *Environmental Humanities* 1 (2012):1-5
- Sandilands, Catriona Mortimer. "Queering Ecocultural Studies." *Cultural Studies*. 22. 3-4 (May-July 2008): 455-476.
- Slovic, Scott. "Love is Never Abstract." *Watershed: Environment & Culture*. 2.1 (2005): 16-23
- Slovic, Scott. "The Third Wave of Ecocriticism: North American Reflections on the Current Phase of the Discipline." *Ecozon@* 1.1 (2010): 4-10.
- Sörlin, Sverker. "Environmental Humanities: Why Should Biologists Interested in the Environment Take the Humanities Seriously?" *BioScience* 62.9 (2012): 788-89.
- Sturgeon, Noël . "Movements of Ecofeminism." Chapter 1 in *Ecofeminist Natures: Race, Gender, Feminist Theory and Political Action*. New York: Routledge, 1997. 23-58. For notes: Pp.200-210.
- Tillman, Rachel. "Toward a New Materialism: Matter as Dynamic." *Minding Nature* 8.1 (2015): 30-35.
- Uhl, Christopher. "The Root Cause of Climate Change." *Minding Nature* 9.1 (January 2016): 21-26.
- White, Lynn. "The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis." *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*. Athens: U of Georgia P, 1996. 3-14.
- Wolfe, Cary. "Animal Studies, Disciplinarity, and the (Post)Humanities." Chapter 4 in *What is Posthumanism?* Minneapolis: The U of Minnesota P, 2010. 99-126. For Notes. Pp. 319-324.
- Yaeger, Patricia. "Editor's Columns: The Death of Nature and the Apotheosis of Thrush; or, Rubbish Ecology." *PMLA* 123.2 (March 2008): 321-339.
- Yaeger, Patricia . "Literature in the Ages of Wood, Tallow, Coal, Whale Oil, Gasoline, Atomic Power, and Other Energy Sources." *PMLA* 126.2 (March 2011): 305-326.

On The Anthropocene, the following texts will be discussed:

- Clark, Timothy. *Ecocriticism on the Edge: The Anthropocene as a Threshold Concept*. London: Bloomsbury, 2015.
- Dibley, Ben. "The Shape of Things to Come: Seven Theses on the Anthropocene and Attachment." *Australian Humanities Review*. 52 (2012): 139-153.
- Kolbert, Elizabeth. "Enter the Anthropocene—Age of Man." *National Geographic Magazine*. March 2011.
- Revkin, Andrew. "Confronting the Anthropocene." *New York Times*. 11 May 2011.
- Woods, Derek. "Scale Critique of the Anthropocene." *Minnesota Review*. 83 (2014): 133-142
- Jan Zalasiewicz, Mark Williams. Et al., "Are We Now Living in the Anthropocene?" *GSA Today* 18.2 (February 2008): 1-8.
- Will Steffen, Paul J. Crutzen and John R. McNeill. "The Anthropocene: Are Humans Now Overwhelming the Great Forces of Nature?" *Ambio* 363.8 (December 2007): 614-621.
- Jan Zalasiewicz, Mark Williams, Alan Haywood and Michael Ellis. "The Anthropocene: A New Epoch of Geological Time." *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* 369 (January 2011): 835-841.
- Tobias Boes, Kate Marshall. "Writing the Anthropocene: An Introduction." *Minnesota Review* 83 (2014): 60-72.
- Will Steffen, Jacques Grinevald, Paul Crutzen and John McNeill. "The Anthropocene: Conceptual and Historical Perspectives." *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society* 369 (2011): 842-867.

Course Outline:

Week I—Introduction to naturecultures and ecocritical studies- [What is Ecocriticism? How did the field develop?] Ethics, Theory, Practices in the First and Second Waves. Discussions of the initial phase developments, naturecultures.

Oppermann, Serpil. "Introduction: New International Voices in Ecocriticism." 1-24.

Week II-IV—What do you think of Timothy Clark's 'quandaries' How do you compare these 13 quandaries with Glotfelty's introduction, Heise's and Buell's approach?

How does the idea of Multiculturalism change with the influence of Nonhuman Cultures?

Patricia Yaeger's graduate students essays (2011)

Texts to be discusses include:

Barry, Peter. "Ecocriticism."

Slovic, Scott. "Love is Never Abstract."

Glotfelty, Cheryll. "Introduction: Literary Studies in an Age of Environmental Crisis."

Cohen, Michael P., "Blues in the Green: Ecocriticism."
 Heise, Ursula. "The Hitchhiker's Guide to Ecocriticism"
 Buell, Lawrence. "The Emergence of Environmental Criticism." Chapter 1 of *The Future of Environmental Criticism*
 Buell, Lawrence. "The Ethics and Politics of Environmental Criticism." Chapter 4 of *The Future of Environmental Criticism*
 Buell, Lawrence, Ursula K. Heise, and Karen Thornber. "Literature and Environment."
 Balaev, Michelle. "The Formation of a Field: Ecocriticism in America"
 Adamson, Joni, and Scott Slovic. "Guest Editors' Introduction: The Shoulders We Stand On"
 Heise, Ursula K. "From the Blue Planet to Google Earth: Environmentalism, Ecocriticism, and the Imagination of the Global."
 Johnson, Loretta. "Greening the Library: The Fundamentals and Future of Ecocriticism."
 Estok, Simon C., "Ecocriticism in an Age of Terror."
 Kirby, Vicki. "Natural Convers(at)ions: Or, What if Culture was really Nature All Along?" Chapter 7 in *Material Feminisms*.
 Plumwood, Val. "The Ecological Crisis of Reason." Chapter 1 of *Environmental Culture*
 Feder, Helena. "Rethinking Multiculturalism"
 Reed, T.V. "Toward an Environmental Justice Ecocriticism." In *The Environmental Justice Reader*
 Oppermann, Serpil. "The Rhizomic Trajectory of Ecocriticism."
 Yaeger, Patricia. "Literature in the Ages of Wood, Tallow, Coal, Whale Oil, Gasoline, Atomic Power, and Other Energy Sources."
 Donna Haraway on naturecultures

Week V-VI- Introducing Environmental Humanities and Ecological/Digital Humanities in the Age of the Anthropocene

Deborah Bird Rose
 Sverker Solkin
 Timothy Clark,
 Poul Holm et al
 Jeffrey Cohen and Stephanie LeMenager
 Joni Adamson- "Networking"
 The Anthropocene texts

Week VII- IX- Feminist ecocriticism. What is the most important dimension feminist environmentalists have brought into ecocritical studies? What is queer ecology? How do these movements relate to animal studies?

Texts to be discussed include

Gaard, Greta. "New Directions for Ecofeminism"
 Gaard, Greta. "Strategies for a Cross-Cultural Ecofeminist Literary Criticism"
 Gaard, Greta. "Feminist Animal Studies in the U.S.: Bodies Matter."
 Timothy Morton. "Guest Column: Queer Ecology."
 Catriona Mortimer-Sandilands. "Queering Ecocultural Studies."
 Sandilands, Catriona and Bruce Erickson. Introduction" in *Queer Ecologies*
 Stacy Alaimo. "Eluding Capture: The Science, Culture, and Pleasure of 'Queer' Animals."
 Paola Cavalieri. "The Cultural Premises."
 Michael Allen Fox and Lesley McLean. "Animals in Moral Space."
 Armbruster, Karla. "Thinking with Animals: Teaching Animal Studies-Based Literature Courses."

Week X- Postcolonialism and ecocriticism

Texts to be discussed include

Huggan, Graham and Helen Tiffin. "Introduction."
 Heise, Ursula K., "Postcolonial Ecocriticism and the Question of Literature"
 Nixon, Rob. "introduction in *Slow Violence*
 Wright, Laura. "Introduction" in *Wilderness Into Civilized Shapes*

Week XI- XIII- The most recent ecocritical and ecocultural theories: Material ecocriticism, elemental ecocriticism, and the posthuman turn in cultural studies or Posthumanities

Serenella Iovino and Serpil Oppermann
 Jane Bennett
 Rachel Tillman
 Rosi Braidotti
 Cary Wolfe
 Karen Barad
 Katherine Hayles
 Jeffrey Cohen

Week XIV : Exam

Method of Instruction: . Lectures and student presentations

Course Requirements: . Attendance is obligatory. More than 11 hours of absence will result in F1. This course requires an extensive level of engagement with the course material. The students will be expected to familiarize themselves with the core themes and concerns of environmental thought and certain core issues of cultural studies before moving on to the more complex social, cultural and philosophical issues of ecocritical/ecocultural studies. The students are required to read and prepare critical responses to the assigned texts and are expected to participate in class discussions. They are also expected to prepare short in-class presentations (close reading of articles), and discuss the background, contexts and relevance of this to other topics.

Student Work:

Keep up with the reading, come ready to engage in discussions and always participate in lively debates. Prepare 2 “response papers” (maximum 5 pages) on the texts we discuss and develop a praxis/application paper by the end of the semester, reinforcing an existing mode of ecocritical approaches or proposing and experimenting with a new direction in the field (c. 10 pages devoted to the “theory,” c. 5 pages applying the theory to specific situations and/or texts). Students earn %5 credits in discussions.

Assessment:

- A.. ONE major research paper of about 10 pages (Term Paper) on the environmental-cultural issues. This will be an in depth critical analysis of a specific phenomenon concerning the environmental cultural issues. (20%)
- B. Two brief response papers to specific readings which will be used as discussion papers. (10% each)
- C. ONE MIDTERM EXAM (10 %) and FINAL EXAM (50%)

Questions to Consider

1. What do you understand by the terms ‘nature’ and ‘culture’ and how are they interrelated?
2. What is involved in studying ‘literature’ and ‘environment’?
3. How do our underlying assumptions about knowledge (epistemology) and the nature of existence (ontology) shape our attitudes and actions towards ‘nature’?
4. What is the relationships among humans and between humans and the physical world, including human bodiliness?
5. Are human beings just the result of random evolutionary processes? Is that all they are?
6. Why has “nature” had such a powerful impact on poets and novelists over the past 150 years?
7. When do poets and scientists think in similar ways? When do they think in different ways?
8. Are you familiar with recent utopian or dystopian projections of the future?
9. How effective is this dystopian vision as a critique of current tendencies?
10. “Be fruitful and multiply.”–Is that a good idea or a waste? Does evolution conflict with the religious teachings of major religions? Can the two viewpoints be reconciled?
11. How did ‘nature’ figure in the literature/film/TV that you experienced as a child? How important is

children's literature in shaping attitudes towards the more-than-human world?

12. To what extent does this narrative advance an environmental ethic?
13. To what extent are animals and the environment shown to be involved in communication in this text?
14. What role does place play in human relationships with the non-human world?
15. How can the physical environment affect your mood or 'disposition'?
16. What might this suggest about the relationship between 'mind' and 'body'?
17. What kind of 'atmosphere' is conveyed by these texts, and how is this accomplished through the language used?
18. How is the relationship between human social relations and the treatment of the environment configured in other science fiction texts with which you are familiar?
19. What connections between social injustice (especially classism, racism, sexism) and environmental destruction are evident in this text?
20. Why is ecocriticism necessary to teach in the 21st century?

"Have pity on this small blue planet searching through time and space"

Jeanette Winterson. *GUT SYMMETRIES*.