COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores how the relationship between human societies and the natural world has been influenced throughout history by various thinkers and ideas. We also consider how nature itself and our interactions with it has influenced society, and in turn, environmental thought. Thus, we examine ecological and biogeographical constraints and ways humans have culturally adapted in attempting to surmount those limits. We explore Western (Euro-American) environmental thought from prehistory until today. To help us understand its distinctiveness we also touch on some contrasting nonwestern perspectives. We necessarily are only able to give limited attention to the various ages, even within the western tradition, and thus, environmental thought and developments of many societies and civilizations are not covered.

Nevertheless, we will examine major paradigmatic shifts and strive to understand how environmental thought has affected the way different societies have viewed nature, their place with respect to the natural world, and in turn, their interactions with it. By exploring that theme, we will also see connections between ideas, writers, and thinkers of the past and the current global environmental crisis. We will ponder if the answers to a more sustainable, prosperous, and just society in the future reside in history and its lessons, or whether we will need to forge new ideas, sensibilities, and ways of relating to each other and nature. Students are encouraged to explore their own connections with the past, develop principles and values that have personal meaning, and contemplate their place in nature and society.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Articulate the distinctive ideas, and social and historical contexts, of influential thinkers and their writings about the role of humans in relation to the natural world.
2. Think critically about the effects of such views on different societies’ interactions with the natural world.
3. Recognize the importance of other historical factors, particularly scientific advancements, technological developments, and changes in social organization.
4. Synthesize ideas and events that led to several major paradigmatic shifts, from pre-history to the present, regarding dominant societal views of the place of humans in nature.
5. Analyze current environmental issues utilizing historical ideas, thinkers, and events.
6. Articulate their personal perspectives on human-nature interactions in relation to historical ideas, thinkers, and events.

GENERAL EDUCATION IN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES (H) (from UM’s website)
These courses present the historical or cultural contexts of ideas and institutions, and examine cultural development or differentiation in the human past. They are foundational in that they are wide-ranging in chronological, geographical, or topical focus, or in that they introduce students to methods of inquiry specific to a particular discipline.

Upon completion of a Historical and Cultural Studies course, students will be able to:
1. Synthesize ideas and information with a view to understanding the causes and consequences of historical developments and events;
2. Evaluate texts or artifacts within their historical and/or cultural contexts;
3. Analyze human behavior, ideas, and institutions within their respective historical and/or cultural contexts.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Travis Anklam: travis.anklam@umontana.edu; M1-C; Office hours: Tu-Th 10am-12pm
Sarah Lundquist: sarah.lundquist@umontana.edu; M1-C; Office hours: MW 11am-12:30pm

REQUIRED TEXTS


Electronic Reserve Readings on Moodle: (MOODLE)

REQUIREMENTS

• PLEASE TURN OFF ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING CLASS [This includes cellphones, tablets, and laptops]
• Regular class attendance and participation that demonstrates a grasp of the reading assignments
• Short critical response essays on *Journey of the Universe* and *Ishmael*
• Weekly 2-page response essays to the readings
• Written midterm and final exams
• 5 hours of “ecological immersion” and reflective essay
• Final essay synthesizing learnings from the course

CLASS MEETINGS AND FORMAT

Class meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00--10:50 am. On Monday and Wednesday we meet in DHC 119. Most Fridays the class will be divided into smaller activity sections, which will meet separately with either the instructor or one of the teaching assistants. Your class location and teacher for Friday class will be announced in class the first week. Readings not listed in the course schedule may be assigned for Friday sections by your teacher. Tests, in-class writing and reading, discussion, and other activities will mostly occur on Fridays and will usually, but not always, cover material, ideas, and questions raised during the week. Special assignments for sections can also be expected.
ASSIGNMENTS AND CLASSES

Sapiens = Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind; JU = Journey of the Universe;
MOODLE = readings on Moodle

INTRODUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Topic and Assigned Reading</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/26</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction: Laying out themes and structure of the course</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/28</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Why It Matters: The Cosmological Context and The Planetary Challenge to the Human Race</td>
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<td><em>Journey of the Universe, Chs. 1-4 (JU pp. 1-45)</em></td>
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<td>8/30</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Journey of the Universe II: The Emergence of Life</td>
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<td><em>Journey of the Universe, Chs. 5-7 (JU pp. 47-79)</em></td>
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<td>9/2</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>Labor Day – No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/4</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Journey of the Universe III: The Origin and Impact of Humans</td>
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<td><em>Journey of the Universe, Chs. 8-11 (JU pp. 81-118)</em></td>
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<td>9/9</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>Raising Questions I: The Relation of Culture and Ecology</td>
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<td><em>Ishmael: Chs. 1-5 (pp. 3-91)</em></td>
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<td>9/11</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Raising Questions II: Takers, Leavers, and a Crashing Culture?</td>
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<td><em>Ishmael: Chs. 6-9 (pp. 95-184)</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>9/13</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Section Meetings: Discuss Ishmael</td>
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<td>Go Over Ecological Immersion Requirements</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Ishmael: Chs. 10-13 (pp. 187-263)

I. SETTING THE CONTEXT: FROM PRE-HISTORY TO EARLY CIVILIZATION

9/16 M 9 The Cognitive Revolution I: The Emergence of Homo Sapiens

*Sapiens* Ch. 1: “An Animal of No Significance”
*Sapiens* Ch. 2: “The Tree of Knowledge”

Recommended: E. O. Wilson: “The Riddle of the Human Species” MOODLE #5
John Poggie, et al “Introduction” to *The Evolution of Human Adaptations*; pp 1-15 MOODLE #6

*Ishmael* response essay due in class

9/18 W 10 The Cognitive Revolution II: Forager Cultures and Mass Extinctions

*Sapiens* Ch. 3: “A Day in the Life of Adam and Eve”
*Sapiens* Ch. 4: “The Flood”
Jared Diamond “Introduction” and “Up to the Starting Line” from *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* pp 9-25, 35-52 MOODLE #7, 7A

9/20 F 11 Section Meetings: Discuss class readings

9/23 M 12 The Agricultural Revolution I: The Great Transition

*Sapiens* Ch. 5: “History’s Biggest Fraud”
*Sapiens* Ch. 6: “Building Pyramids”

Recommended: Jared Diamond “Farmer Power”, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* pp 85-92 MOODLE #8
Jared Diamond “History’s Haves and Have-nots”, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* pp 93-103 MOODLE #9
Jared Diamond “To Farm or Not to Farm”, *Guns, Germs, and Steel* pp 104-113 MOODLE #10

9/25 W 13 The Agricultural Revolution II: Culture, Writing, and Social Hierarchy

*Sapiens* Ch. 7: “Memory Overload”
*Sapiens* Ch. 8: “There is No Justice in History”
Recommended: J. John Palen “Emergence of Cities” from *The Urban World* pp 21-25;

29-57 MOODLE #11A, 11B, 11C

1st Reading Response essay due in class
9/27 F 14 Section Meetings: Review for 1st Midterm Exam

9/28 Sat  Optional: Wildlife Friendly Fence Day at the MPG Ranch

II. VIEWING EARTH, VIEWING HUMANITY: FOUNDATIONS FOR WESTERN AND NON-WESTERN WORLD VIEWS

9/30 M 15 The Unification of Humankind: Emergence of Empire

  Sapiens Ch. 9: “The Arrow of History”
  Sapiens Ch. 10: “The Scent of Money”
  Sapiens Ch. 11: “Imperial Visions”

10/2 W 16 From Animism to Polytheism to Monotheism: The Emergence of Religion, Ancient Hebrew Views, Dominion and the Biblical Tradition

  Sapiens Ch. 12 “The Law of Religion”
  Daniel Hillel “Environment and Culture: A Premise and Its Implications” and “Perceptions of Humanity’s Role on God’s Earth” from The Natural History of the Bible pp 11-25, 241-246 MOODLE #12
  Selections from Genesis and Psalm 8 in the Hebrew Bible MOODLE #13

10/4 F 17 1st Midterm Exam

10/7 M 18 “The Word Made Flesh”: Christianity & the Medieval Synthesis
  Victor Ferkiss “To Serve Man or to Serve Nature?” pp 1-17 MOODLE #14
  “Great Chain of Being” in New World Encyclopedia MOODLE #15

III. MOVING TOWARD MODERNITY: THE DISENCHANTMENT & DOMINATION OF NATURE

10/9 W 19 Science Rising: Method, Monster, or Savior?

  Sapiens Ch. 14, pp. 247-266: “The Discovery of Ignorance”
  “Philosophers of the Brave New World” NW pp 180-193 MOODLE #17

10/11 F 20 The Enlightenment, Private Property, and “Man’s” New Ascendancy

  John Locke “Of Property” from The Two Treatises of Government MOODLE #18
  “The Enlightenment: The Disenchantment of Nature” NW pp 214-221
  MOODLE #19

Ecological Immersion Essay due in class
10/14 M 21 **Wedding Science with Technology: Colonialism, the Industrial Revolution and the New Global Economy**

*Sapiens* Ch. 15: “The Marriage of Science and Empire”
Victor Ferkiss “Technology Triumphs: The Industrial Revolution” **MOODLE #20**

**Recommended:** *Sapiens* Ch. 16: “The Capitalist Creed”

10/16 W 22 **The Scientific Method Meets Geology & Biology: The Legacy of Charles Darwin**

Charles Darwin *The Origin of Species* 27-30; 115-121 **MOODLE #21**
Selections from Elizabeth Kolbert’s *The Sixth Extinction* **MOODLE #22**
**Recommended:** Donald Worster “Scrambling for Place” from *Nature’s Economy: The Roots of Ecology*” pp 145-169 **MOODLE #23**

2nd Reading Response essay due in class

10/18 F 23 **Section Meetings:** Discuss Readings

**IV. Restoring Reverence & Harnessing Humans: Romanticism, Transcendentalism, and the Beginning of Conservation & Preservation**

10/21 M 24 **Romanticism and Transcendentalism: The Legacy of Emerson and Thoreau**

R. Nash: “Henry David Thoreau: Philosopher” **MOODLE #24**
Henry David Thoreau: “Walking” pp 3-32 **MOODLE #25**
Rebecca Solnit: “The Thoreau Problem” from *Orion* 2009 **MOODLE #26**

**Guest Speaker:** Phil Condon, Director, Environmental Studies


R. Nash: “Wilderness Preserved” **MOODLE #27**
R. Nash: “John Muir: Publicizer” **MOODLE #28**
“Hetch Hetchy” **MOODLE #29**
John Muir: Excerpts from “A Wind-storm in the Forests” **MOODLE #30**

**Recommended:** John Muir “The Philosophy of John Muir” from *The Wilderness World of John Muir* pp 311-323 **MOODLE #31**

3rd Reading Response essay due in class

10/25 F 26 **Section Meetings:** Review for 2nd Midterm Exam

10/28 M 27 **The Underside of Manifest Destiny: Expeditions and the Role of People of Color**
Dorceta Taylor: “People of Color: Access to and Control of Resources” **MOODLE#32**
10/30 W 28  Nature and Society in the City: The Beginnings of Urban Environmentalism
Robert Gottlieb: “Urban and Industrial Roots: Seeking to Reform the System”
MOODLE #33

Guest Lecturer:  Sarah Lundquist

11/1 F 29 2nd Midterm Exam

V: The Rise of Modern Environmentalism

11/4 M 30 Ecology and Conservation Biology

Aldo Leopold “Thinking Like a Mountain” from A Sand County Almanac pp 137-141
MOODLE #34

Aldo Leopold “The Land Ethic” from A Sand County Almanac pp 201-226 MOODLE #35

R. Nash: “Aldo Leopold: Prophet” MOODLE #36

Recommended:
“Ecology, Conservation, and Ethics” pp. 62-77 from John Grim and Mary Evelyn Tucker, Ecology and Religion. MOODLE #37

Guest Lecturer: Prof. Len Broberg, Environmental Studies

11/6 W 31 Rachel Carson’s Not-So-Silent Spring: The Rise of the Green Critique

Rachel Carson: Excerpts from her writings MOODLE #38

“A Fable for Tomorrow” [1962]
“A New Chapter to Silent Spring” [1963]
“The Pollution of Our Environment” [1963]

Rachel Carson: “Introduction” by Linda Lair and “The Obligation to Endure,” Chapter 2 from Silent Spring MOODLE #39

“Rachel Carson” Dreamers and Defenders: American Conservationists MOODLE #40

4th Reading Response essay due in class

11/8 F 32 Section Meetings: Discuss class readings

11/11 M  Veterans Day – No Class

11/13 W 33 Earth Day and Beyond: Institutionalization of the New Environmental Paradigm

Philip Shabecoff “Saving Ourselves” from A Fierce Green Fire” pp 103-119
MOODLE 41
Philip Shabecoff “The Environmental Revolution” from *A Fierce Green Fire* pp 121-139 MOODLE #42

11/15 F 34 Dissenters from the Left: The Emergence of Radical Ecology and the Critique of “Shallow” Ecology

Arne Naess “Ecology: The Shallow and the Deep” pp 167-172 MOODLE #43
*Sapiens* Ch. 17: “The Wheels of Industry”

5th Reading Response essay due in class

11/18 M 35 Sacred Time versus Sacred Place: Native American Perspectives

Vine Deloria “Sacred Lands and Religious Freedom” in *For This Land: Writings on Religion in America* pp 203-213 MOODLE #45
George Tinker “Native Americans and the Land: ‘The End of Living and the Beginning of Survival’” in *Constructing Christian Theologies from the Underside* pp 141-151 MOODLE #46
Rosalyn LaPier “Silent, Sacred and Wild.” MOODLE #47 Available at: *Silent, Sacred and Wild* link

Documentary: *Homeland: Four Portraits of Native Action*

11/20 W 36 Integrating Social Justice with Environmental Sustainability: Environmental Justice

Jedediah Purdy: “Environmentalism Was Once a Social-Justice Movement”
MOODLE #48
Recommended: “Toxic Wastes at Twenty: Introduction & Chapter 1.” Available at: *Toxic Waste at Twenty.*

6th (Final!) Reading Response essay due in class

11/22 F 37 Section Meetings: Discuss the week’s readings

11/25 M 38 New Directions: Biomimicry, Ecological Design, and Green Economics

Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, L. Hunter Lovins “The Next Industrial Revolution” from *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution* pp 1-21 MOODLE #50
Recommended: Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, L. Hunter Lovins “Human Capitalism” from *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution* pp 285-308
MOODLE #51

Guest Lecturer: Travis Anklam

11/27 W  Thanksgiving Travel Day – No Class

12/2 M 39  Where Does the Nature—Human Relation Go From Here?  Globalization & Climate Change in the Anthropocene

  Sapiens Ch. 18: “A Permanent Revolution”
  Sapiens Ch. 19: “And They Lived Happily Ever After”
  Naomi Klein: “Beyond Extractivism: Confronting the Climate Denier Within”

MOODE #52

12/4 W 40  Wrap-up and Class Review

12/6 F 41  Section Meetings: Discuss Readings and Review for Final Exam

Final Learning Synthesis Essay Due in class

Final Exam Period: Thursday, December 12th, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Grading Policy

1. Journey of the Universe response essay: 5%
2. Ishmael critical response essay: 10%
3. Six weekly response essays to the readings: 15%
4. 5 hours of Ecological Immersion and essay: 10%
5. 2 Midterm Exams: 30% (15% each)
7. Final exam: 15%

Note Re Papers: Papers are due in class on or before the date listed in the syllabus. Unless you have made a prior agreement with me, I will take off one grade level (A becomes A-) for each class day an assignment is late. Note: Email submissions will not be accepted; paper copies only. Papers with an undue number of errors of punctuation, spelling, or grammar will be returned ungraded for correction and the final grade will be marked down one full letter grade. Written work will be evaluated in terms of your depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, clarity of writing, and ability to address issues raised in the text and in class on the topic at hand. Grades given reflect the following criteria of judgment:

F: Failure to meet minimum requirements
D: Unsatisfactory, but some effort to meet minimum requirements
C: Satisfactory; meet minimum requirements of assignment but not much more
B: Good to Very Good: thoughtful reflection, good analysis, clear writing style
A: Excellent depth of critical analysis, thoughtfulness of reflection, and writing style; demonstrate creativity and mature analytical skills in going beyond the primary requirements of the assignment

**Note:** Final Grades will be recorded using pluses and minuses.

**Attendance:** Regular attendance and participation in the class is expected. More than **four** (4) absences will result in losing any benefit of the doubt on your final grade. More than **seven** (7) absences will result in one grade reduction. More than **ten** (10) absences will result in a failing course grade. Late arrivals in class will count as an absence. (**Note:** I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences in totaling your number of absences. If you have a valid reason for missing several classes, such as illness or other conflicting commitments, you still **must** speak with the instructor.)

**Cellphones & Electronic Devices:** Please turn off all cellphones and electronic devices during class time. **Students who text or use electronic devices during class will be asked to leave and counted as absent for that class.**

**Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:** All work submitted is expected to be the student's own. Any acts of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in automatic failure of the course, and may result in further academic punishment. If you have any doubts about definitions of plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please review the relevant sections of the University Catalog.

**Weight and Timeline of Assignments**

The total number of points available for class assignments is 500 points. There are no extra credit points available (so please don’t ask). In order of due dates, the assignments are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Journey of the Universe essay</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>September 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ishmael critical response essay</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>September 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>6 Weekly response essays</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>each Wednesday</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>1st Midterm exam</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 4</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Ecological Immersion Essay</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>October 11</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>2nd Midterm exam</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>November 1</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Final Learning Synthesis essay</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>December 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>December 12</td>
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**Description of Written Assignments**
1. Response essay to *Journey of the Universe* (5%): This is a 3-page critical response essay to the book and documentary, *Journey of the Universe*. See the more detailed assignment posted on Moodle for specific instructions. (Paper Due in class: Sept 6)

2. *Ishmael* critical response essay (10%): Write a 5-6 page, typed, double-spaced critical response to Daniel Quinn’s novel, *Ishmael*. Roughly two-thirds of your essay (4 pages) should be a thoughtful exposition of the main points in the book where summarize and explain Quinn’s argument. Then develop your response to the book in the final third of your paper. See the more detailed assignment posted on Moodle for specific instructions. (Note: Your essay must contain specific references to and relevant quotes from the text to support your exposition and argument. Give page numbers for quotes or where you are summarizing from the text. Your audience is someone who has not read the book.) (Paper Due: Sept 16)

3. Weekly Response Essays: Your main job to prepare for the participation portion of this course is to do each assigned reading thoughtfully before class and then to help us discuss it in class, particularly the Friday sessions. To help you think critically about what you read, each week you will write a short two-page response essay to the weekly readings. See the more detailed assignment posted on Moodle for specific instructions.

   Turn in your essay to your Friday instructor at the beginning of each Wednesday class session starting the week of Wednesday, September 23rd. Your essays should be typed and double-spaced and proofread for writing errors. The purpose is to help you do the reading well and to prepare for the Friday discussion sessions where we will all share our ideas about the reading. You should be prepared to speak about your ideas or questions during the class discussion.

4. Ecological Immersion Exercise and Essay: Each class member will do a minimum of five hours of "ecological immersion" -- participation with a group or in an organized activity focused on environmental issues. We will discuss various possibilities during the Friday session on September 6th; you are also free to choose your own activity (just run it by your session instructor first). Check the Conservation Calendar on the UM Environmental Studies Program website for possibilities. Read the more detailed assignment posted on Moodle for specific instructions. (Due: Friday October 11)

5. Final “Learning Synthesis” Essay: The assignment is designed to help you synthesize what you have learned throughout the semester by reflecting on your own views in light of the course materials. The specific directions will be handed out and discussed in your Friday section on April 20th. The essay itself is due on Friday the final week of classes. (Due: Fri, Dec 6)

6. Midterm and Final Exams: These are 50-minute exams that cover material from the first, second and third portions of the semester. The format of the exam will include multiple choice and short answer identifications to cover basic content you should know, as well as essay questions to assess how well you are able to integrate and reflect on what you are learning. Review sessions will take place on September 27, October 25 and December 6. Midterm exams: October 4 and November 1; Final exam: December 12. Note: No makeup tests for these dates will be allowed without signed official documentation and advanced consent of instructor.
Important University Policies, Dates and Deadlines:

See the Calendar page in Cyberbear for a list of important dates for Fall 2019: Registrar Calendar. Students are responsible for being aware of these dates.

Credit/No Credit Grade option: A minimum grade average of D- (60) is required for a CR grade in the CR/NC Grade option.

Incomplete Grade: Please see the criteria that must be met for an Incomplete in the University Catalog. No exceptions will be made for these criteria.

Learning Disabilities: The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with DSS, please contact DSS in Lommasson 154. I will work with you and DSS to provide an appropriate accommodation. For more information, please consult Disability Services for Students.

List of MOODLE Readings, Fall 2019


15. “Great Chain of Being,” *New World Encyclopedia*, accessed from: [Great Chain of Being](#).


47. Rosalyn LaPier “Silent, Sacred and Wild.” Available at: [Silent, Sacred and Wild](#)


Additional Environmental Justice readings:

“Toxic Wastes at Twenty: Introduction & Chapter 1.” Available at: [Toxic Waste and Race at Twenty](http://www.toxicwaste.org/).
