

University of Western Ontario
Department of English and Writing Studies, Winter 2018
English 9155B: Animals and the Environment in Early Modern Literature
Monday, 9:30-12:30, LWH 2210

Instructor: Dr. Madeline Bassnett
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This course will take up the current critical interest in animal studies and ecocriticism to investigate the poetry, prose, and drama of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Possible texts

King Lear or *Macbeth*

Assignments

Participation: 20%

Response papers: 20%

Seminar: 20%

Final Paper: 40%

Participation 20%

This grade evaluates ongoing participation in class discussions. Your contributions are what will make this class successful! When reading, take notes, record questions, and come prepared to discuss and examine both primary and secondary texts in detail. Please be sure to bring your primary texts, and either print off the OWL material (encouraged) or bring your laptop.

This grade also includes attendance at and participation in the draft essay workshop on the last day of classes. Please be sure to bring your drafts and come prepared to give feedback to others. (loser to the date.)

Note: Repeated absences (i.e., more than 3 missed classes without legitimate medical or personal reasons) means that you will forfeit this portion of your grade.

Response Papers 20% (1000 words

Research Paper 40% (4500-5000 words: 15-18 pages)**Due Date:** April 16th

This paper will explore a topic of your choosing in relation to one or more primary texts from our syllabus. It should be based on substantial research (at least 10 secondary sources), and make a clear, well-developed, and well-written argument. You may use your seminar and/or your response papers as a starting point. If you do, the final paper should considerably develop your ideas (especially in the case of a seminar), through a more in-depth analysis of the primary text, and through significant additional research. In other words, this paper should be a substantial investigation of a new idea and/or a process of active revision: please simply reiterate your seminar paper and build the rest of your paper around it.

I am always happy to meet and discuss assignments and ideas.**Notes on Extensions and Technology:**

No extensions will be granted for in-class presentations (response papers and seminar)

Course Outline

Jan. 8: Introduction

Jan. 15: Ecocritical Thinking (all readings on OWL)

Timothy Clark, from *The Cambridge Introduction of Literature and the Environment*, pp. 1-24.

Keith Thomas, from *Man and the Natural World*, pp. 17-50, 92-120.

