SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

Title: Literary Theory
Year: I-II. semester
Instutute: Irodalom- és Kultúratudományi Doktori Iskola
Instructor(s): Dr. Gabriella Vöő

Code: BIALA0104	Requirement*: Colloquium Practical grade / Colloquium	Type of Examination*: Assignment / Written / Oral / Practical exam	Credits: (10+10) 20

Grading Scale*: five-point scale (1–5) / three-point scale (excellent, satisfactory, unsatisfactory)

Description: This doctoral-level course introduces students to contemporary theoretical frameworks within the interdisciplinary field of the Environmental Humanities, with special emphasis on their relevance to modern literary and cultural studies. Students will critically examine foundational ideas of modernity and multiple modernities, engaging with Bruno Latour's influential rethinking of scientific revolutions and modern epistemologies. In the first part of the course, readings and discussions address the concept of the Anthropocene and its complex intersections with climate change, utopian thought, and environmental justice. The latter half of the course dives deeper into recent theoretical developments, including New Materialism, Posthumanism, and the Ontological Turn. By engaging with literary texts that accompany theoretical readings, students will learn to apply Environmental Humanities-related concepts in their interpretive practice.

Week	**Topic**
Week 1	What Are the Environmental Humanities? Required reading: Heise, Ursula. "Planet, Species, Justice—and the Stories We Tell about Them." *The Routledge Companion to the Environmental Humanities*. Routledge, 2017. 1-10. Recommended reading: Butler, Octavia. *Bloodchild and Other Stories.* New York: Seven Stories Press, 2005.
Week 2	Conceptualizing modernity Required reading: Jameson, Frederick. *A Singular Modernity: Essay on the Ontology of the Present*. Verso, 2002. Recommended reading: Eisenstadt, Shmuel. *Multiple Modernities*. Ed. Shmuel Eisenstadt. Transaction Publishers, 2017.
Week 3	Modernity and the Scientific Revolution Required reading: Latour, Bruno. *We Have Never Been Modern*. Trans. Catherine Porter. Harvard University Press, 2002. Recommended reading: Bauman, Zygmunt. *Liquid Modernity*. Polity, 2000. 1-15.
Week 4	The ambivalence of scientific modernity Required reading: Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein* (any edition)

	Recommended reading: Hammond, Kim. “Monsters of Modernity: Frankenstein and Modern Environmentalism.” *Cultural Geographies* 11.2 (Apr. 2004): 181-98.
Week 5	Ecocriticism and the Anthropocene Required reading: Clark, Timothy. “The Anthropocene—Questions of Definition.” *Ecocriticism on the Edge: The Anthropocene as a Threshold Concept*. Bloomsbury, 2015. 1-28. Recommended reading: Garrard, Greg. *Ecocriticism.* Routledge, 2004.
Week 6	Defining the Anthropocene Required reading: Chakrabarty, Dipesh. “The Climate of History: Four Theses.” *Critical Inqury* 35.2(Winter 2009): 197-222. Recommended reading: Morton, Timothy. *Hyperobjects: Philosophy and Ecology after the End of the World*. University of Minnesota Press, 2013.
Week 7	Climate Change, Utopia, and Dystopia Kötelező olvasmány: Griffiths, Matthew. *The New Poetics of Climate Change: Modernist Aesthetics for a Warming World*. Bloomsbury, 2017. Recommended reading: Gosh, Amitav. *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable.* Chicago University Press, 2016.
Week 8	Representing Ecological Crisis and Utopia Required reading: Atwood, Margaret. *Oryx and Crake*. Vintage, 2003. Recommended reading: Sullivan, Sean. “What’s Ontology Do with It?” *The Routledge Handbook of Environmental Anthropology*. Ed. Helen Kopona and Eleanor Shoreman-Quimet. Routledge, 2017.
Week 9	Posthumanism and the New Materialism Required reading: Braidotti, Rosi. *The Posthuman*. Polity, 2013. Recommended reading: Bennett, Jane. *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things*. Duke University Press, 2010.
Week 10	The More-Than-Human World Required reading: Haraway, Donna. *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chtulucene*. Duke University Press, 2016. Recommended reading: Tsing, Anna. “Unruly Edges: Mushrooms as Companion Species.” Environmental Humanities 1 (2012): 141-54.
Week 11	Environmental Justice and Ontological Politics Required reading: DuBois, W. E. B. “Of Beauty and Death.” Darkwater: Voices from Within the Veil. 1920. Dover Publications, 1999. Recommended reading: Agamben, Giorgio. *The Open: Man and Animal*. Stanford University Press, 2004.
Week 12	Agency and Ontology Beyond the Human Required reading: LeGuin, Ursula. “Vaster Than Empires and More Slow.” *Buffalo Gal and Other Animal Presences*. Penguin, 1990. Recommended reading: Benczik, Vera. “Here There Be Trees.” *HJEAS* 31.1 (2025): 84-100.

Week 13	Memory, Trauma, and Ecological Futures Required reading: Nixon, Rob. *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor.* Harvard UP, 2011. Recommended reading: Malm, Andreas. *Fossil Capital: The Rise of Steam Power and the Roots of Global Warming*. Verso, 2016.
Week 14	Narrating Environmental Justice and Memory Required reading: Ward, Jesmyn. *Salvage the Bones.* Bloomsbury, 2011. Recommended reading: Clark, Christopher W. "What Comes to the Surface [in] Jesmyn Ward's *Salvage the Bones*." *Mississippi Quarterly* 68.3-4 (Summer-Fall 2018): 342-58.