



**ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY**  
**Department of English Language and Literature**  
**2025-2026 Academic Year – Summer School**  
**ELL 434 Literature and Environment (303-04)**  
**Tentative Course Syllabus (Elective)**

**Instructor:** Özge Üstündağ Güvenç, PhD.  
**Course Hours:** Wednesday 10.20-13.10 Thursday 10.20-13.10  
**Class:** RB 04  
**Office Hours:** Thursday 14.00-15.00  
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### **Course Description**

The course explores a range of environmental issues, such as the place of the human within nature, ecofeminism and gender, engagements with European philosophy and the biological sciences, critical animal studies, posthumanism and climate change. It may look at the development of ecocriticism from its origins in studies of European pastoral literature up to contemporary literary academic approaches; or focus on current concerns such as environmental damage raised by pollution, wildlife extinction and urban development. Course material may include analytical texts by British, European, American thinkers, works reflecting environmental issues by such writers as Wordsworth, Dickens, Shelley, Carson, DeLillo, Ghosh, Atwood, Martel, Mootoo, and related films, such as Nuridsany and Pérennou's *Microcosmos* or Werner Herzog's *Grizzly Man*.

### **Requirements**

As the course aims to build an awareness of the importance of environmental issues in literature, course activities will be based on analyzing literary texts, movies and theoretical works. Therefore, for each class, students are expected to:

1. Bring pen, pencil and paper to be able to take notes
2. Actively involve in class activities and discussions
3. Turn off their mobile phones during class
4. Attend at least 60 % of their classes, otherwise they will not be allowed to take the final examination. This means that students may have no more than 15 hours of absence. Students are also responsible for tracking their own attendance.

### Course Objectives

To deepen the student's consciousness and sense of responsibility for our planet and nature.

To discuss the literary consequences of environmental damage raised by pollution, wildlife extinction and urban development

**\*\* Course materials will be provided by the instructor via web online system**

### Evaluation

Unethical use of AI technology in assignments and class activities will be treated as plagiarism and will be subject to academic penalties.

ASSESSMENT TOOL	QUANTITY	PERCENTAGE
Midterm	1	40 %
Final	1	40 %
Presentation	1	15 %
Regular Attendance Reading/Watching Materials Participating in class discussions	14	5 %

### Weekly Schedule

Weeks	Wednesday Class	Thursday Class
<b>Week 1</b> 29 June-3 July	Introduction to the course (Syllabus) <b>The Humanities – The Environmental Humanities</b> Introduction to <b>Ecocriticism</b> Analysis of “Earth Song” by Michael Jackson and” Roll on, thou deep and dark blue ocean — roll!” by Lord Byron	<b>Anthropocene</b> <b>Climate Change, Global Warming</b> Analysis of “A Fable for Tomorrow” from <i>Silent Spring</i> by Rachel Carson

<b>Week 2</b> 6-10 July	<b>NATO WEEK</b>	<b>NATO WEEK</b>
<b>Week 3</b> 13-17 July	<b>15 July (Public Holiday)</b>	<b>(3+1=4 hours from 10.20 to 14.10)</b>  Analysis of the movie within the framework of ecocriticism <i>Into The Wild</i> (2007)
<b>Week 4</b> 20-24 July	<b>(3+1=4 hours from 10.20 to 14.10)</b>  Introduction to <b>Ecofeminism</b> Gender, Race, Class, and Environment Analysis of “The End of Something” by Ernest Hemingway	<b>(3+1=4 hours from 10.20 to 14.10)</b>  Analysis of <i>Beasts of the Southern Wild</i> (2012) and <i>The True Cost</i> (2015)
<b>Week 5</b> 27-31 July	<b>MIDTERM</b>	<b>(3+1=4 hours from 10.20 to 14.10)</b>  Introduction to <b>Ecophobia</b> Analysis of articles
<b>Week 6</b> 3-7 August	<b>(3+1=4 hours from 10.20 to 14.10)</b>  Introduction to <b>Material Ecocriticism</b> Analysis of <i>E-Wasteland</i> (2012) and <i>Plastic Bag</i> (2010)	<b>(3+1=4 hours from 10.20 to 14.10)</b>  Introduction to <b>Animal Studies</b> Analysis of <i>White God</i> (2014)
<b>Week 7</b> 10-14 August	<b>Student Presentations</b>	<b>Student Presentations</b>
<b>Week 8</b> 17-18 August	<b>Final Exam</b>	

**I wish us all a great summer semester**