

Course Description

Course Unit

Topics in North-American Studies: Poetical Forms and Environmental Justice

UC Code

MOD8.921696

ECTS Credits

12 ECTS

Work Hours

336H (12 ECTS)

Level

PHD

Academic year and Semester

2024/2025, S1

Faculty

Margarida Vale de Gato

Class

TP 1

Language of instruction

English

Class Description

The seminar aims to guide research in forms of poetic experimentation on extending language to alternative dimensions of the human and other-than-human. It is structured in an arc that goes from “nature writing” to “ecopoetics” (Keller 2017), passing through the ecocentric turn (Buell 1995), especially after the inscription of the “Anthropocene” as an epochal mark.

We will contemplate the main debates and themes of ecocriticism in relation to lyric theory (Jackson and Prins 2014), exploring modes of “investigative poetics” (Retallak 2007) from the perspective of new relational modes, namely intra-action and “making kin” (Haraway 2016), including a critical analysis of ecofeminism (Plumwood 2004). Considering the material-contextual situation of

approaching North American studies from a Portuguese point of view, we will pay special attention to the Atlantic axis and, from there, to the conceptual flexibilization proposed by the “blue humanities” (Mentz 2023), including coastal and archipelagic studies.

Proposed poets: Emerson, Thoreau, Edgar Allan Poe, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Marianne Moore, Sylvia Plath, Adrienne Rich, Erin Mouré, Julianna Spahr, Evelyn Reilly, Abigail Chabitnoy.

PhD students are expected to take from the presented material what they find more useful for their projects and respective theoretical frameworks, benefiting from this overview of how certain North American literary works reflect on and enact the intersubjectivity between “we” (rather than an individual, specifically human, I) and the environment

Grading and Assessment

Class participation and postings on the blog (min. 4) ecopoeticforms.blogspot.com: 20%

Oral presentation with Performative reading/Videopoem/Collage, etc. + analysis: 20 %

Midterm paper: 20%

Final paper: 40% (15% first version + 10 % class discussion + 15% final version)

Bibliography

Garrard, G. *Ecocriticism*, 2nd ed. Routledge, 2012.

Jackson, Virginia, and Yopie Prins, eds. *The Lyric Theory Reader: A Critical Anthology*. JHU Press, 2014.

Haraway, Donna. *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*. Duke UP, 2016.

Keller, Lynn. *Recomposing Eco-poetics: North American Poetry of the Self-Conscious Anthropocene*. U of Virginia P, 2018.

Mentz, Steve. *An Introduction to the Blue Humanities*. Routledge, 2024.

Plumwood, Val. "Gender, Ecofeminism, and the Environment." In *Controversies in Environmental Sociology*, ed Rob White. CUP, 2004, pp. 43-59.

Retallak, J. (2007) What is Experimental Poetry & Why Do We Need It?. *Jacket*, 32. Online <http://jacketmagazine.com/32/p-retallack.shtml> [acedido 28/08/20223]

Prerequisites (if applicable)

compatible with admission in PhD program