Professor Amy Tigner

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Office Hours M 1-2, W 4-5, and by appointment

Course Hours W 6-8:50

Carlisle 212

English 5308: Eco-Shakespeare

Course Description: This course will take an ecocritical approach to studying Shakespeare and his world, by looking at how non-human or more-than-human natural or elemental “beings” play a critical role or could even be considered characters in his dramatic oeuvre. So, we will be looking specifically at animals and plants, but also larger entities such as storms, forests, moors, and oceans and how they function in the plays. In particular we will be exploring the following plays with a green eye: *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *The Tempest, Midsummer Night’s Dream, As You Like It, and King Lear.* We will also be considering the recent relevant critical material that has concerned itself with Ecocriticism and Eco-feminism.

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| Date | Texts due | Assignments |
| W 8/22 | Introduction and *As You Like It*  What is an Analytical paper?  Moving toward Ecocritical thinking.  Secondary Readings:  Simon Estok “Doing Ecocriticism with Shakespeare” pp. 77-91  Jennifer Munroe “Shakespeare and Ecocriticism Reconsidered” 461-470 |  |
| W 8/29 | *As You Like It*  Secondary readings:  Arden Introduction  Robert Watson “As You Liken It” pp.77-107 | Analytical paper—350 to 500 words  Annotated Bibliography of Secondary material |
| W 9/5 | *Tempest*  Secondary readings:  Arden Introduction  Sharon O’Dair “Slow Shakespeare: An Eco-Critique of “Method” in Early Modern Literary Studies”  Todd Borlik “Caliban and the fen demons of Lincolnshire: The Englishness of Shakespeare’s *Tempest*” pp. 21-51 | Analytical paper—350 to 500 words. Due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 9/4  Annotated Bibliography of Secondary material |
| W 9/12 | *Tempest*  Secondary Material  Lowell Duckert “Mucking Up” pp.201-241  Dan Brayton “Prospero’s Maps”  Yates, “Wet?” | Analytical paper—350 to 500 words. Due by 5 pm on Tuesday 9/11  Annotated Bibliography of Secondary material |
| W 9/19 | *Macbeth*  Secondary Reading  Arden Introduction | Analytical paper—350 to 500 words. Due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 9/18  Annotated Bibliography of Secondary material |
| W 9/26 | *Macbeth*  Steve Mentz, “Shakespeare’s Beach House, or the Green and the Blue in Macbeth”  Secondary Reading  Shakespeare and Ecofeminism | Analytical paper—350 to 500 words. Due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 9/25.  Annotated Bibliography of Secondary material |
| W10/3 | *Midsummer Night’s Dream*  Secondary readings:  Arden Introduction  Jeffrey Theis, “Green Plots and Green Plotters” pp. 91-120 | Analytical paper—350 to 500 words. Due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 10/2.  Annotated Bibliography of Secondary material |
| W 10/10 | *Midsummer Night’s Dream*  Secondary Readings  Robert Watson, “The Ecology of Self in *Midsummer Night’s Dream*” | Analytical paper—350 to 500 words.  Due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 10/9.  Annotated Bibliography of Secondary material |
| W 10/17 | *King Lear*  Secondary readings  Arden Introduction | Analytical paper—350 to 500 words. Due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 10/16  Annotated Bibliography of Secondary material |
| W 10/24 | *King Lear*  Writing the Abstract Workshop  Secondary readings  Soper, “Neither the ‘Simple Backward Look’ nor the ‘Simple Progressive Thrust’: **Ecocriticism** and the Politics of Prosperity”  Pye, “Green World/No World: King Lear, Ecocriticism, and the Politics of Finitude” | Analytical paper—350 to 500 words. Due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday 10/23  Annotated Bibliography of Secondary material |
| W 10/31 | *Hamlet* | Abstract  Annotated Bibliography of Secondary material |
| W 11/7 | No Class—I will be at a conference | Work on your final paper. |
| W 11/14 | *Hamlet*and **Writing Workshop** | Bibliography |
| W 11/21 | Thanksgiving—no class |  |
| W 11/28 | **Class Presentation Conference** |  |
| W 12/5 | **Final paper due** |  |
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Texts

Arden *Macbeth*

**ISBN-10:** 1904271413,**ISBN-13:** 978-1904271413

Arden *Hamlet*

**ISBN-10:** 1904271804,**ISBN-13:** 978-1904271802

Arden *The Tempest,*

**ISBN-10:** 1408133474, **ISBN-13:** 978-1408133477

Arden *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*

**ISBN-10:** 1408133490, **ISBN-13:** 978-1408133491

Arden *As You Like It*

**ISBN-10:** 1904271227, **ISBN-13:** 978-1904271222

Arden *King Lear.*

**ISBN-10:** 1903436591, **ISBN-13:** 978-1903436592

Requirements:

**Analytical papers (30%)**: 8 out of 9 analytical papers, that should be between 350 and 500 words (no more than that please!) These papers will help you think through the ideas about which we are reading and thinking. These papers are also low stakes places to practice your writing skills before you need to write the longer paper.

**Annotated Bibliography (10%)**: For each of the secondary readings, you will need to write an annotated bibliographic entry. The form for this assignment is on Blackboard.

**Discussion Leading (10%):** Each student will lead the discussion and provide discussion questions for two different days. You will concentrate on one article that we will have read. I will pass around a sign-up sheet on the first day, so you will know which articles you will in charge of. You should provide a handout in which you provide a brief summary of the article, highlighting the points that you think are the most significant for our ongoing conversation about Shakespeare and Ecocriticism; then you will provide approximately 5 developed discussion questions that you will ask the class. It will be your responsibility to ask the questions and keep the discussion rolling.

**Final Paper with abstract and bibliography (50%):**