

Subject card

Subject name and code	Literature of the More-Than-Human World, PG_00177749						
Field of study	American Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2024		Academic year of realisation of subject		2025/2026		
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	2		Language of instruction		English		
Semester of study	4		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit	Division of Research into English Language Literature -> Institute of English and American Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr hab. Monika Szuba				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	0.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		18.0	50
Subject objectives	The aim of this course is to enable in the student a familiarity with the key aspects, many of them urgent, of the Environmental Humanities and to familiarise one with essential terminologies used in the field; this will be pursued to enhance understanding of current cultural mechanisms ongoing in literature and other media. The course will offer a practical guide to the field of the Environmental Humanities, a dynamically expanding area of critical importance today as the complex interdependence of all life becomes increasingly apparent, and as scholars, artists, and activists seek ways to understand, investigate, and intervene in past and present relations between human and more-than-human world. Employing the theoretical framework provided by the concept more-than-human with the view to expanding the perspective beyond an anthropocentric one, the course will offer a more inclusive understanding of literary and cultural production. We will explore various aspects of the more-than-human world such as companion species, mycorrhizal networks, human-wildlife conflicts and weird natures in the context of the multispecies studies, the extinction studies, the vegetal turn and the blue humanities, among others. By focusing on literary responses to the more-than-human world, the course aims to explore the role that the humanities may have to play in the future of the planet.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[AMERL3_U06] Is able to communicate orally and in writing on issues related to American culture and literature, using specialized terminology in cultural and religious studies and literary studies.	The student is able to communicate orally and in writing on cultural and literary issues, using specialised terminology in cultural and religious studies and literary studies with particular emphasis on ecocriticism.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[AMERL3_W08] Has detailed knowledge of selected issues in American and other English-language literatures.	The student has detailed knowledge of selected issues in American and other English-language literatures from an ecocritical perspective.	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SW2] presentation/project/paper/report
	[AMERL3_K01] is ready to critically evaluate his knowledge and skills, especially in American cultural and literary studies, as well as the basic contextual knowledge of American studies concerning history, social sciences, geography, linguistics and art and English.	The student is ready to critically evaluate his knowledge and skills, especially in the field of Americanist cultural and literary studies, as well as the basic contextual knowledge of Americanist studies concerning history, social sciences and geography and the arts and English language in the context of environmental humanities.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK2] presentation/project/paper/report
Subject contents	Moors, Heaths and Mountains The Vegetal Turn Trees Fungi Companion species Other Minds Blue Humanities Farewell to Ice Weird Natures Human-animal Conflict Zones The Age of Extinction Rivers Grief and Mourning in the Anthropocene Hope in the Anthropocene		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	presentation	60.0%	50.0%
	active participation in class discussion	60.0%	50.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Introduction to Human Plant Studies/Cultural Studies of Plants Michael Marder, <i>Plant-Thinking: A Philosophy of Vegetal Life</i> (2013), pp. 17-22 Richard Powers, <i>The Overstory</i> Robert Macfarlane, The Secrets of the Wood Wide Web, The New Yorker, 7 Aug. 2016, https://www.newyorker.com/tech/annals-of-technology/the-secrets-of-the-wood-wide-web Dorothy Wordsworth, <i>The Grasmere Journal</i> Nan Shepherd, <i>The Living Mountain</i> Anna Tsing, <i>The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins</i> (2015), pp. vii-viii; 1-9. Merlin Sheldrake, <i>Entangled Life</i> (2020), Prologue & Introduction. Donna Haraway, <i>The Companion Species Manifesto: Dogs, People, and Significant Otherness</i> (2003), pp. 1-5. <i>My Octopus Teacher</i> (documentary) Peter Godfrey-Smith, <i>Other Minds: The Octopus, the Sea, and the Deep Origins of Consciousness</i> (2016), Two Meetings and a Departure. Kathleen Jamie, Voyager, Chief Rebecca Giggs, <i>Fathoms: The World in the Whale</i>. Thom van Doreen, Multispecies Studies Barry Lopez, Apologia Julia Armfield, <i>Our Wives Under the Sea</i> Nicole Seymour, Strange Natures: Futurity, Empathy and the Queer Ecological Imagination (2013), pp. 3-4. Jamail, Dahr. <i>The End of Ice: Bearing Witness and Finding Meaning in the Path of Climate Disruption</i> (2019), pp. 11-22. Wadhams, Peter. <i>A Farewell to Ice: A Report from the Arctic</i> (2017), pp. 1-5. Deborah Bird Rose, Thom van Dooren, and Matthew Chrulew, eds. <i>Extinction Studies: Stories of Time, Death, and Generations</i> (2017), pp. 1-13. Jane Hirshfield, poems (selection) Gary Snyder, poems (selection)
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		Olivia Laing, <i>To the River</i> (excerpt) Alice Oswald, <i>A Sleepwalk on the Severn</i> (selection) Robert Macfarlane, <i>Is a River Alive?</i> Rebecca Solnit, <i>No Straight Road</i>
	Supplementary literature	.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed		
Work placement	Not applicable	

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