

Literary Imagination and the Climate Crisis

Syllabus

Instructor
Stephanie Friedman
Quarter: Spring 2024
Start – end date: March 19 – April 9, 2024
Session day/time: Tuesday, 6:00 – 7:30 pm CT
Course Code and Section: APUC11014 24S1

Email **Course Overview**

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Many thinkers and writers have argued that we can only imagine solutions to the existential threat caused by the climate crisis by reimagining the stories we tell ourselves about our relationships with each other and with the more-than-human world. In this course, we will discuss contemporary literary works that consider how a more nuanced understanding of our planet and our history might help us work toward a more sustainable future. Our readings will include work by authors such as Ross Gay, Camille Dungy, Barry Lopez, Robin Wall Kimmerer, and Lydia Millet.

Modality

Remote learning

Required texts

All readings will be provided as internet links and pdf files.

Course readings

Week	Author	Reading Assignment
Week 1	The Bible	Genesis 1-2 (https://www.sefaria.org/Genesis.1.1?lang=bi&aliyot=0)
	Nickole Brown	“When Adam Ate from the Tree of Knowledge, All the Animals Ate from It, Too” (https://www.vidaweb.org/vida-review-issue1-brown/)
		“A Prayer to Talk to Animals” (https://poets.org/poem/prayer-talk-animals)
Week 2	Barry Lopez	“Love in a Time of Terror” (https://lithub.com/barry-lopez-love-in-a-time-of-terror/) “On Location” (pdf)

Week	Author	Reading Assignment
	Rebecca Solnit	“When the Hero is the Problem” (http://rebeccasolnit.net/essay/when-the-hero-is-the-problem/)
Week 3	Robin Wall Kimmerer Ross Gay Camille T. Dungy	“Becoming Indigenous” from <i>Braiding Sweetgrass</i> (pdf) “We Kin” from <i>Inciting Joy</i> (pdf) Excerpt from <i>Soil: The Story of a Black Mother’s Garden</i> (pdf)
Week 4	Lydia Milet	“Thylacine” (https://emergencemagazine.org/fiction/thylacine/)

Accessing remote courses

Remote courses are taught through our Canvas platform. Approximately two weeks before your class begins, we will add you to your canvas site using the email address you provided at the time of registration. An invitation will then be sent to that email. Click the “Get Started” button in the email to begin the Canvas login process. For step-by-step instructions, please visit <https://grahamschool.uchicago.edu/academic-programs/online/learning-resources/liberal-arts>. Once you’ve created your Canvas account, you can access any Graham School canvas course for which you are registered at: <https://canvas.uchicago.edu>.

Accessibility information

Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class session at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.

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If you, or another student you know, wishes to speak to a confidential resource who does not have this reporting responsibility, please contact the Sexual Assault Dean on Call through the UChicago Safe App or at 773.834-HELP.

Questions? Contact Zoë Eisenman at zme1@uchicago.edu.