

**French 589: The Environment in French Literature**  
**Spring 2019**

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Office hours: Wednesday 4-5,  
Friday 12-1, or by appointment

**Course Description**

This course is divided into three units, each of which begins with the study of an environmental theme in a contemporary French or Francophone text, followed by an exploration of the same theme in texts from different historical periods. By the end of the semester, we will attempt to answer this question: What role can literature play in the understanding, management, or resolution of environmental issues?

**Learning Objectives**

By the end of the semester, students should be able to do the following:

- Demonstrate progress in oral French proficiency through participation in presentations and small and large group discussions
- Demonstrate progress in written French proficiency through short literary reaction papers, written exams, and a final research paper
- Comprehend and think critically about French texts from a variety of historical periods
- Demonstrate familiarity with the work of a selection of environmental humanities scholars

**Required Texts**

Aimé Césaire, *Une tempête*

Michel Tournier, *Vendredi ou la vie sauvage*

Additional readings on Blackboard

**Course Policies and Expectations**

Our group is made up of students at different points in their study of French. I will do my best to ensure that everyone makes progress according to their level. I expect you to come to class prepared to challenge and assist each other in small and large group discussions.

Attendance: Attendance and active participation are mandatory. You are permitted two absences, no questions asked, with no impact on your grade. For each additional absence (excused or unexcused), you will receive a 0 for that day's participation grade. You will automatically fail the course if you miss five class meetings without an excuse.

Late work: If you miss class for any reason, you should get information given in class from another student. You must arrive completely prepared at the next class. If you are absent the day an assignment is due, it must be turned in by another student or electronically by the time our class meets. No late assignments will be graded without prior arrangement and approval.

Academic conduct and discipline: All assignments must be 100% your own work, representing your own ideas (properly citing those ideas that are not your own) and your own writing in French. You are not allowed to use online translation sites, although use of high-quality online or paper dictionaries is encouraged. All instances of plagiarism, including the use of online translators or help from a French-speaking friend, will result in an F on the assignment and a report will be filed with the Academic Discipline Committee. If you are unsure whether you have plagiarized, please come speak with me before the assignment is due.

Disability Access and Inclusion: The University of Mississippi is committed to the creation of inclusive learning environments for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your full inclusion and participation, or to accurate assessment of your achievement, please contact the course instructor as soon as possible. Barriers may include, but are not necessarily limited to, timed exams and in-class assignments, difficulty with the acquisition of lecture content, inaccessible web content, and the use of non-captioned or non-transcribed video and audio files. If you are approved through SDS, you must log in to your Rebel Access portal at <https://sds.olemiss.edu> to request approved accommodations. If you are NOT approved through SDS, you must contact Student Disability Services at [662-915-7128](tel:662-915-7128) so the office can: 1. determine your eligibility for accommodations, 2. disseminate to your instructors a Faculty Notification Letter, 3. facilitate the removal of barriers, and 4. ensure you have equal access to the same opportunities for success that are available to all students.

### **Grading**

Participation (30%): You will receive a daily participation grade. Points will be assigned according to the following rubric:

3 points: You made substantial contributions to small and large group discussions. Your contributions demonstrated thorough preparation of the readings.

2 points: You participated minimally in small and large group discussions, and/or your contributions demonstrated that you had not prepared the readings carefully.

1 point: You did not participate in small and large group discussions, and/or your contributions did not demonstrate that you had done the readings.

0 points: You were absent.

Oral presentations (15%): Undergraduate students will give a 5-minute presentation on a literary aspect of the day's reading. You may choose to focus on a character, setting, imagery, theme, etc. You should be able to cite examples from the text, and show its significance to the text at large. Graduate students will lead a 15-20 minute lesson/discussion on the day's reading. Your presentation will begin with a 5-minute response to the reading, followed by a few discussion questions for the class.

Exams (20%): At the end of each unit, there will be an exam consisting of short-answer questions about the unit's readings.

Reading response papers (20%): You will submit three response papers on texts of your choice. These 1-page reading responses are due on the final day of discussion of the text you have chosen. You will have the opportunity to revise your paper to earn additional points.

Final paper (15%): For your final paper, you will research a current or historical environmental event or issue that relates to one of the three course themes. In 5-7 pages (10-12 for graduate students), you will present what you have learned in your research on the event/issue, along with an analysis of how it connects to one or more of the course readings.

**Module 1: Environnement et Justice Sociale**

Date	En classe	Devoirs
23 janvier	Introduction au cours	Lob et Rochette, <i>Le Transperceneige</i> pp. 7-27; Nixon, <i>Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor</i> pp. 1-30
28 janvier	<i>Le Transperceneige, Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor</i>	<i>Le Transperceneige</i> pp. 28-48
30 janvier	<i>Le Transperceneige</i>	<i>Le Transperceneige</i> pp. 49-70; Nixon pp. 30-44
4 février	<i>Le Transperceneige, Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor</i>	<i>Le Transperceneige</i> pp. 71-90
6 février	<i>Le Transperceneige</i>	<i>Le Transperceneige</i> pp. 91-114
11 février	<i>Le Transperceneige</i>	Zola, <i>Germinal</i> Première partie, Chapitres 1 et 2 pp. 31-48
13 février	<i>Germinal</i>	<i>Germinal</i> Deuxième partie, Chapitre 1 pp. 95-104; Finch-Race et Weber, « L'écocritique française »
18 février	<i>Germinal</i> , « L'écocritique française »	Boileau, <i>Satires VI</i>
20 février	<i>Satires VI</i>	
25 février	<b>Examen 1</b>	Césaire, <i>Une tempête</i> Acte I

### Module 2: Retours à la Nature

27 février	<i>Une tempête</i>	<i>Une tempête</i> Acte II; Grove, <i>Green Imperialism: Colonial Expansion, Tropical Island Edens, and the Origins of Environmentalism 1600-1860</i>
4 mars	<i>Une tempête, Green Imperialism</i>	<i>Une tempête</i> Acte III
6 mars	<i>Une tempête</i>	Tournier, <i>Vendredi ou la vie sauvage</i> Chapitres 1-12
11 mars	Vacances de printemps	
13 mars	Vacances de printemps	
18 mars	<i>Vendredi ou la vie sauvage</i>	<i>Vendredi ou la vie sauvage</i> Chapitres 13-24
20 mars	<i>Vendredi ou la vie sauvage</i>	<i>Vendredi ou la vie sauvage</i> Chapitres 25-35
25 mars	<i>Vendredi ou la vie sauvage</i>	Rousseau, <i>Rêveries du promeneur solitaire</i> , Cinquième Promenade
27 mars	<i>Rêveries du promeneur solitaire</i>	Montpensier, <i>Lettres</i> 1; Alaimo, <i>Undomesticated Ground: Recasting Nature as Feminist Space</i> pp. 1-13
1 avril	Lettres, <i>Undomesticated Ground: Recasting Nature as Feminist Space</i>	
3 avril	<b>Examen 2</b>	

### Module 3: Catastrophes naturelles et humaines

8 avril	Film: <i>Hiroshima mon amour</i>	
10 avril	Film: <i>Hiroshima mon amour</i>	Le Clézio, <i>Pawana</i>
15 avril	<i>Pawana</i>	Voltaire, <i>Poème sur le désastre de Lisbonne</i> , Préface
17 avril	<i>Poème sur le désastre de Lisbonne</i> <b>À rendre: Plan pour la dissertation finale</b>	Voltaire, <i>Poème sur le désastre de Lisbonne</i>
22 avril	<i>Poème sur le désastre de Lisbonne</i>	
24 avril	<b>Examen 3</b>	
29 avril	Conclusions	
1 mai	Consultations pour la dissertation finale	

Dissertation finale à rendre mercredi le 8 mai