

Inquiry into Environmental Literature: Land and Community
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In this course students will read a body of environmental literature that examines land use and questions of sustainability. Though the course will give students a sense of the historical foundations of the modern environmental movement, it will also provide the opportunity to look critically at contemporary environmental literature and practices in our community. An exciting element of this course is the way in which it lends itself to multi-disciplinary approaches. Students from a broad range of disciplines—literature, history, ecology, agriculture studies, economics, forestry, and many more—will be able to research and synthesize intersections with their own areas of study. Students are expected to read scholarly criticism, conduct historical research, and select a local environmental issue for field research. Students will also compose a short sample of creative nonfiction expressing their own reflections on place. The reading list will include writings from a variety of genres; potential texts include Wendell Berry's novel *Jayber Crow*, poetry and essays on naturalism from the American transcendentalists, essays by environmental activists like John Muir, Edward Abbey, and Aldo Leopold. We will also read/ research current environmental topics central to our region.