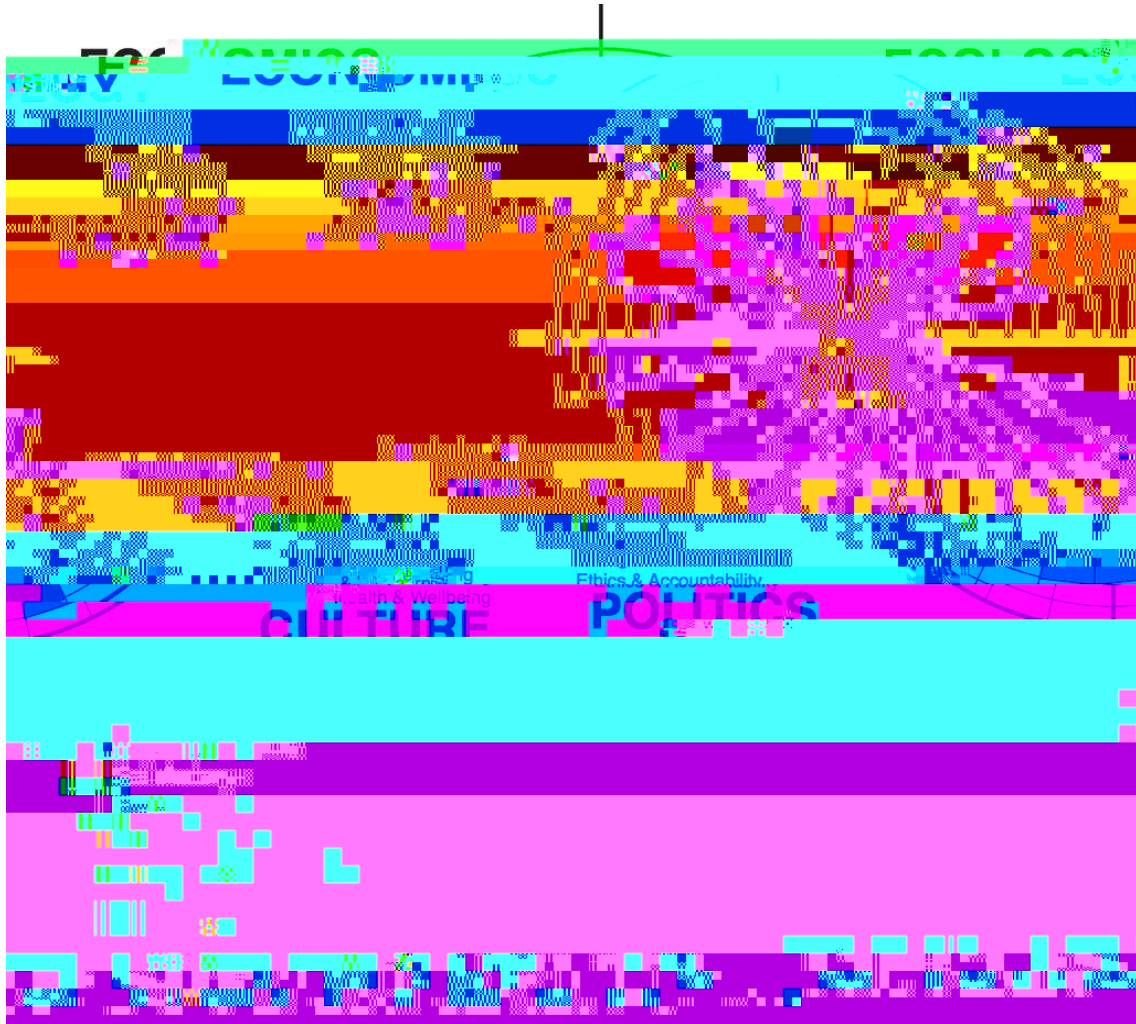


Comparative Literature 9696B

Circles of Sustainability: Literature and Environmentalism

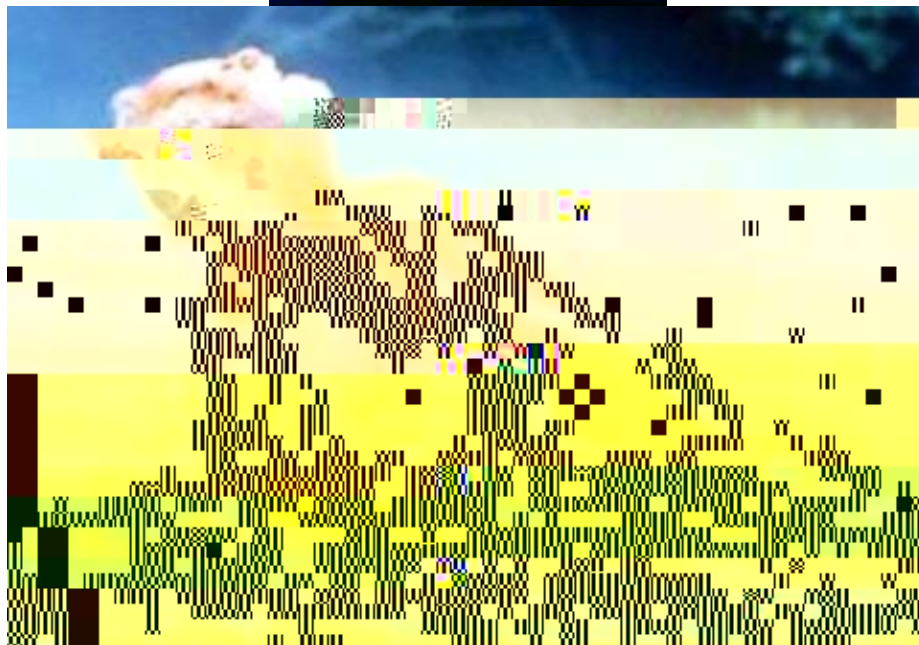
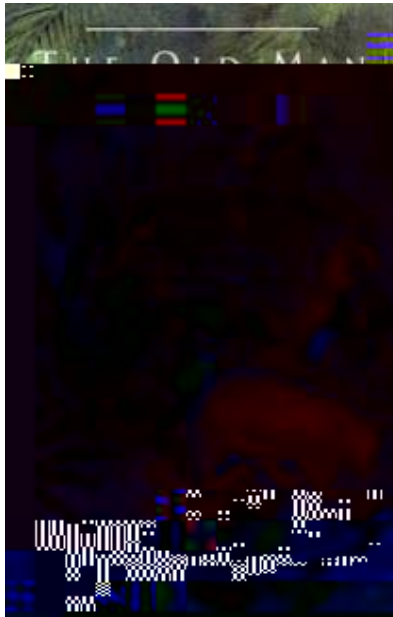


<p>Spring Term 2016 Wednesdays from 9:30am to 12:30pm Weldon Library 107</p>	<p>Professor James Miller The Pride Library, jmiller@uwo.ca 519-661-2111, extension 85828</p>
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1. Course Description

confronting the seemingly intractable problems of urban life in the twenty-first century. As developed by the researchers behind the UN briefing paper *Accounting for Sustainability* (No. 1, 2008), the method results in the symbolic transformation of the messy realities of an actual city Melbourne, for instance, or Mumbai into an instantly readable and comparable profile of its economic, political, cultural, and ecological ratings in four sets of seven categories centripetally arrayed across the quadrants of a wheel-diagram. Why is environmental discourse so deeply allegorical? The UN's rotary method of urban evaluation was brilliantly anticipated by Dante in his mapping of the City of Dis in the *Inferno* (completed c. 1310). As a groundbreaking allegory of urban decline and environmental degradation, the *Inferno* reconstructs Florence as an infernal model for the Devil's imperial capital: a concentrically structured *pozzo* the polluted currents of ancient and modern history inescapably drain. Populated with sinners notable for their rapacious greed, rampant violence, and raging egotism, the multiple rings of the already fallen through desire, may fall even further through antisocial disregard for natural order. In this course we shall study a range of contemporary environmental discourses including the model of urban analysis in order to develop a hermeneutical method for assessing literature (including film texts) focused on environmental crises. Besides Dante's *Inferno*, readings for the course will include St. Francis of Assisi's *Canticle of the Sun*, Pope Francis I's encyclical *Laudato Si'*, the Kabuki drama *Saint Naruwu*

Remarks (10 minutes).....10%



3. Schedule of Readings

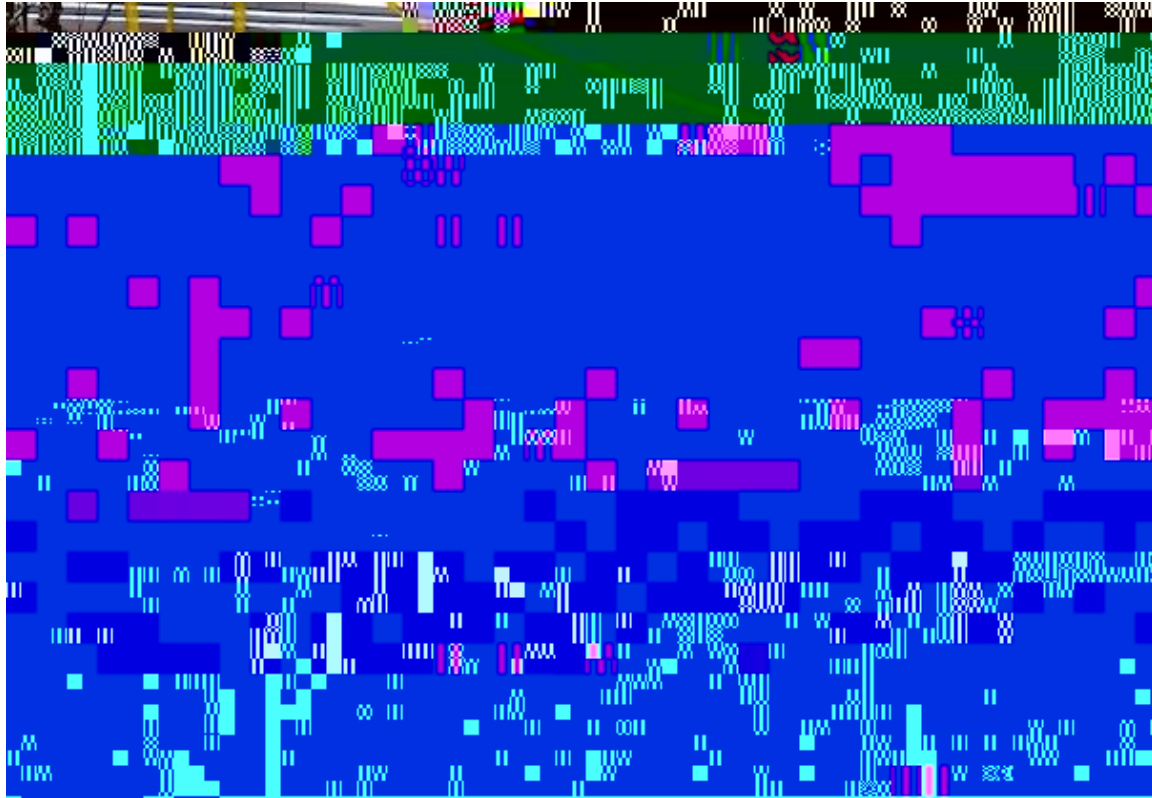
WEEK ONE: January 6: Environmental Allegories

Readings: St. Francis, *Canticle of the Sun*; Pope Francis, Encyclical: *Laudato Si'*

WEEK TWO: January 13: Environmental Discourses

Readings: Dryzek, *The Politics of the Earth*

Readings: Atwood, *Maddaddam*



4. Required Readings: Printed Texts [on order at the Bookstore]

a. Margaret Atwood. *Oryx and Crake*

Paperback: 416 pages

Publisher: Vintage Canada (July 28 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 030739848X

ISBN-13: 978-0307398482

b. Margaret Atwood. *The Year of the Flood*

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Vintage Canada (July 27 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 030739798X

ISBN-13: 978-0307397980

c. Margaret Atwood. *Maddaddam*

Paperback: 416 pages

Publisher: Vintage Canada (Aug. 12 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0307397998

ISBN-13: 978-0307397997

d. Dante. *Inferno* trans. Robert Hollander

Paperback: 736 pages

Publisher: Anchor; Tra Blg edition (Jan. 8 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385496982

ISBN-13: 978-0385496988

Publisher: Picador (Dec 10 2008)

ASIN: B00SQCEUXW

g. Henrik Ibsen.

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062357263

ISBN-13: 978-0062357267

k. Luis Sepulveda. *The Old Man Who Read Love Stories* [paperback edition]

Publisher: Harcourt (March 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0151685509

ISBN-13: 978-0151685509

5. ~~Required Readings:~~ Online Texts

James Miller

UC 351 (Office) or The Pride Library (Weldon Mainfloor)

ex 85828 (UWO) 519-673-0234 (Home)

jmiller@uwo.ca

9. Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the *Western Academic Calendar*). Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's verbatim or paraphrased text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against a possible charge of plagiarism. This also applies to work facilitated or written for students by third parties.

10. Absenteeism

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

N.B. E-mail will be used extensively.