

# English Literature and Culture

## “Literature and the Anthropocene”

LM-37 – Fall 2023

**Instructors:** Prof. John F. McCourt ([johnfrancis.mccourt@unimc.it](mailto:johnfrancis.mccourt@unimc.it)) and Sofia Cavalcanti ([sofia.cavalcanti@unimc.it](mailto:sofia.cavalcanti@unimc.it))

**Days/Time/Place:** Mon. 9:00-11:00 & Wed. 13:00-15:00

**Office hours:** check instructors' websites

### **Description:**

This course will examine how contemporary literature in the English language (from Canada, India, Ireland, and the UK) is dealing with the Anthropocene and the human destruction of the earth's geology and ecosystems. Environmental change, the climate crisis, the capitalist impulse, colonialism, and human displacement and migration will be key themes.

### **Work requirements:**

- Attendance and participation in the course
- Reading assigned texts before class
- Group presentation
- Essay

### **Reading List:**

#### **Primary Sources**

1. Amitav Ghosh, *Gun Island* (John Murray, 2019)
2. John Lanchester, *The Wall* (Norton, 2019)
3. Cynan Jones, *Stillicide* (Granta, 2019)
4. Amitav Ghosh, *The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable* (University of Chicago Press, 2017)
5. Jesmyn Ward, *Salvage the Bones* (Bloomsbury Publishing, 2011)
6. Anne Michaels, *The Winter Vault* (Vintage, 2009)
7. Amitav Gosh, *The Hungry Tide* (HarperCollinsPublishers, 2004)
8. Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* (Random House 1997)
9. A selection of poetry will be provided in pdf during the course

## Secondary Sources

Hubbel, J. Andrew and Ryan John C. 2021. *Introduction to the Environmental Humanities*. New York: Routledge.

## Course Schedule:

Week 1	Mon. 2/10	Course presentation
	Wed. 4/10	Environmental Humanities: an introduction
Week 2	Mon. 9/10	The Anthropocene, climate change, and the crisis of imagination: <i>The Great Derangement</i> (Ghosh 2016)
	Wed. 11/10	Risk and resilience in environmental narratives and climate change fiction: <i>The Hungry Tide</i> (Ghosh 2004)
Week 3	Mon. 16/10	The Anthropocene, climate change, and the crisis of imagination: <i>The Great Derangement</i> (Ghosh 2016)
	Wed. 18/10	Risk and resilience in environmental narratives and climate change fiction: <i>The Hungry Tide</i> (Ghosh 2004)
Week 4	Mon. 23/10	Narrating climate change: <i>Gun Island</i> (Ghosh 2019)
	Wed. 25/10	Non-human agency and Material Ecocriticism: <i>Salvage the Bones</i> (Ward 2011)
Week 5	Mon. 30/10	Narrating climate change: <i>Gun Island</i> (Ghosh 2019)
	Wed. 1/11	Ecofeminist perspectives in postcolonial and indigenous writings: <i>The God of Small Things</i> (Roy 1997)
Week 6	Mon. 6/11	Water narratives: <i>Stillicide</i> (Jones 2019)/ Eco-dystopias: <i>The Wall</i> (Lanchester 2019)
	Wed. 8/11	Ecofeminist perspectives in postcolonial and indigenous writings: <i>The God of Small Things</i> (Roy 1997)
Week 7	Mon. 13/11	Group presentations
	Wed. 15/11	
Week 8	Mon. 27/11	Group presentations
	Wed. 29/11	

## Note:

	The class will be held by Prof. McCourt
	The class will be held by Prof. Cavalcanti