# Table 8:

# Climate Change in Literature

Cinder Cooper Barnes (English) and Victoria Schneider (Environmental Biology)

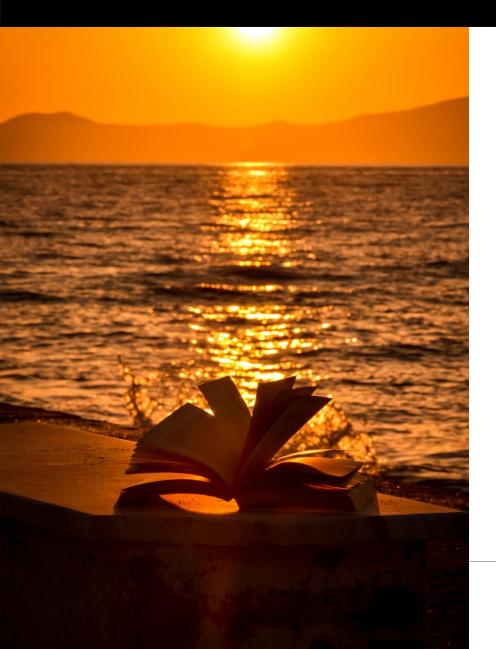




## Ecocriticism

"Ecocriticism asks us to examine ourselves and the world around us, critiquing the way that we represent, interact with, and construct the environment, both "natural" and manmade" (Brizee, et.al).





# Concerns

- The intersecting relationship between human culture and the physical environment
- The relationship between literature and the environment
- The global ecological crisis





# Two Waves

- First Wave (1980s and 90s)
  - Emphasis on nature writing as a specific discipline/area of study
  - Call for the writers in the discipline to "speak for nature"
  - Focus on the environmental crisis and activism
  - Desire to connect humanities and science to solve environmental crisis
- Second Wave (2000s)
  - "Redefines the term "environment," expanding its meaning to include both "nature" and the urban"
  - "Raised awareness of class, race, and gender...often examining the plight of the poorest of a population who are the victims of pollution are seen as having less access to "nature" in the traditional sense" (qtd. In "Eco-criticism")



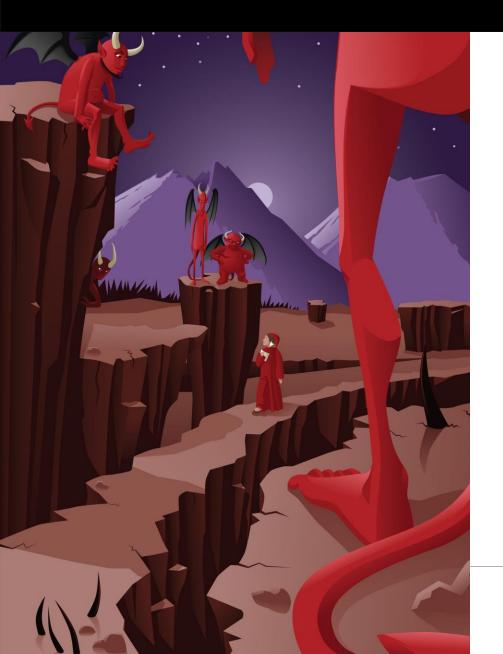


# **Typical Questions**

- How is nature represented in this text?
- How has the concept of nature changed over time?
- How is the setting of the play/film/text related to the environment?
- What is the influence on metaphors and representations of the land and the environment on how we treat it?
- How do we see issues of environmental disaster and crises reflected in popular culture and literary works?
- How are animals represented in this text and what is their relationship to humans?
- How do the roles or representations of men and women towards the environment differ in this play/film/text/etc.
- Where is the environment placed in the power hierarchy?
- How is nature empowered or oppressed in this work?
- What parallels can be drawn between the sufferings and oppression of groups of people (women, minorities, immigrants, etc.) and treatment of the land?
- What rhetorical moves are used by environmentalists, and what can we learn from them about our cultural attitudes towards nature?

"Eco-Criticism." Purdue Online Writing Lab. Purdue University, https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/subject\_specific\_writing/writing\_in\_l iterature/literary\_theory\_and\_schools\_of\_criticism/ecocriticism.h tml.





# Cli-Fi

Any fictional work written about the effects of climate change and global warming

Subcategory of Science Fiction

Climate disaster fiction/movies

Dystopian climate based fiction/movies

**IMDB List of Cli-Fi films** 



### Resources

NY Public Library Eco-criticism reading list

**United Nations Climate Change** 

Henry David Thoreau's Walden

Rachel Carson's Silent Spring

Greenmatters' Nine Amazing Books about Environmental Racism



# 3:30–3:50 Large Group Report-Outs

# 3:50–4:00 Closing Remarks

