

535.01

Literature & Ecology

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1410-1525 TTH

Gretton

Where scientific ecology enables us to preserve our air, soil, water, and species, spiritual ecology is essential to how we envision and value nature. Literature, myth, art, and spirit traditions depict nature as both spiritual & material, sapient & sentient, holistic & diverse, speaking & significantly silent, morality & process, a nature which humans are both a part of & apart from. Can these two natures--spiritual and scientific-- be reconciled? We will consider nature in American literature, as portrayed by Emerson, Whitman, Thoreau, Dickinson, Muir, Twain, Crane, Jewett, Frost, Eliot, Faulkner, the Beats, Levertov, Stegner, LeGuin, Lane Deer, Silko, Harjo. I will provide a course reader.