Environmental Humanities (EH)

The EH concentration emphasizes the important role the humanities, arts, and social sciences can play not just in producing solutions to environmental problems but in understanding how those problems arose and reframing them to improve environmental outcomes. All humans are storytellers. That includes environmental scientists, whose stories are grounded in analytical approaches. The environmental humanities explore how people in diverse cultures construct narratives about the environment and its relation to humans and how those narratives inform their actions in the world. Courses exploring subjects such as literature, art, ethics and culture can help students appreciate the underlying values and belief systems that drive much of human behavior. The Environmental Humanities concentration is designed for students drawn toward disciplines such as history, ethics, aesthetics, literature, sociology, and anthropology who wonder why so many brilliant technical solutions to environmental problems have foundered in particular social, cultural, and political contexts.

Learning Goals: The students in the EH concentration will gain an in-depth understanding of the social, cultural, personal, political, and psychological dimensions of humans’ relationship with the environment, and of the methods by which knowledge in this area of scholarship is acquired, interpreted, and evaluated. Students who complete the EH course of study will be able to apply frameworks of understanding from the environmental humanities to complex interdisciplinary environmental issues.

Course Requirements will be developed during the 2018-2019 academic year as this concentration is implemented within the cross-college ESS major. Academic advisors can assist students in selecting courses, including the following courses that are currently available:

- ANTHR 2420: Nature/Culture: Ethnographic Approaches to Human-Environment Relations (F)
- ANTHR 4025: Deranged Authority: Culture, Power, and Climate Change (F)
- ANTHR 4101: The Entangled Lives of Humans and Animals (F)
- ANTHR 4390: Primate Conservation: Cross-cultural Perspectives on Wilderness Preservation and Animal-Human (F)
- ANTHR 4801: Water Societies: Ecology, Technology, History (F)
- ARTH 2255: Ecocriticism & Visual Culture (F)
- ASIAN 1100: FWS: Religion and Ecological Sustainability (S)
- HIST 2518: Environmental History (S)
- HIST 2630: Histories of the Apocalypse: From Nostradamus to Nuclear Winter (F)
- COML 1107: FWS: Writing the Environment (F)
- COML 2xxx (new course): Literature and the Elements of Nature (S)
- ENGL 1168: FWS: Communicating Climate Change (F)
- ENGL 3675: The Environmental Imagination in American Literature (S)
- NTRES 3320: Introduction to Ethics and Environment (F)
- NTRES 3330: Ways of Knowing: Indigenous and Place-Based Ecological Knowledge (F)
- NTRES 2320: Nature and Culture (S)
- STS 2061: Ethics and the Environment (S)