COURSE:  EWP 490  LITERATURE OF NATURE
3 Credit Hours, Spring Semester

OBJECTIVES:
1. The students will be able to identify and define several major environmental movements and significant writers who use nature as a theme.
2. The students will be able to describe the differences in attitudes toward nature as held by various writers and environmental movements.
3. They will be able to discuss various divergent points of view of nature as held by the scientific worldview, environmental theorists, and environmental movements.
4. They will be able to write summaries of these various points of view and analyze the issues through essays, book reviews and short papers.

SCOPE:
Course will consider nature writing from Rachel Carson to the present, e.g., Abbey, McPhee, Berry, Dillard, Silko, etc. In addition, the course will study the literature representative of the significant environmental movements, e.g., deep ecology, ecofeminism, social ecology, etc.

METHODS AND MATERIALS:
Paperback books, reserve readings, an anthology and possibly a reader will comprise the bulk of the course materials. The methodology will be lecture/discussion, small group discussions based on the readings, in class exercises, research projects, oral presentations, and written assignments. Students will be asked to do their written work on a word processor.

RELATION TO OTHER COURSES:
This is an elective course for all students who seek to complement their scientific and technical studies with a liberal arts perspective. Literature of Nature considers contemporary issues and authors while the Introduction to the Literature of Nature course explores the subject from Gilbert White to Rachel Carson.

INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES REQUIRED (INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT):
The course will require a classroom capable of holding 20-25 students, an overhead projector, occasionally a VCR, and both SU and ESF libraries where students can conduct research.
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
EWP 490  CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE OF NATURE            3 CREDIT HOURS
Three hours of lecture and discussion per week. Examination of the views of nature and the environment as seen by contemporary nature writers and environmentalists. The readings, discussions and written assignments will explore the aesthetics, the socio-politico climate and the prevailing attitudes toward the environment that form the backdrop for readings.

COURSE HISTORY:
This course can be considered as an iteration of other such courses that have appeared at various times throughout the history of the College. In the spring 1992 and 1993 semesters the course was offered as EST 496. Approved by Faculty Action 4/22/93. Course title changed in 2010 from “Literature of Nature” to “Contemporary Literature of Nature.” Approved by Faculty Action.