This course familiarizes students with characteristic works of nature writing by U.S. authors. While the course touches on fiction and poetry, emphasis is on major authors, themes and issues in creative nonfiction about the natural world from the beginnings of European settlement to the present. Topics covered include changes over time in American thinking and writing about nature; primitivism and the pastoral; the aesthetics of nature and nature writing; nature writing and spirituality, Romanticism, Modernism, and the natural world; anthrocentrism and biocentrism; ecofeminism; creation of point of view in description and nonfiction narrative; authorial tone and credibility; and the "prophetic tradition" in American nature writing.
Understand the ways by which nature writing contributes to our cultural responses to the natural world at a level consistent with the analytical and expressive complexity and sophistication that are distinctly characteristic of upper-division courses at comprehensive universities.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies

None

Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

1. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Engage in the creative process or interpretive performance.
4. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
5. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 10 - People/Environment

1. Explain the basic structure and function of various natural ecosystems and of human adaptive strategies within those systems.
2. Discern patterns and interrelationships of bio-physical and socio-cultural systems.
3. Describe the basic institutional arrangements (social, legal, political, economic, religious) that are evolving to deal with environmental and natural resource challenges.
4. Evaluate critically environmental and natural resource issues in light of understandings about interrelationships, ecosystems, and institutions.

G. Special Information

Community Engagement