

BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The City University of New York

Department of ENGLISH

Title of Course:	Course Number:	ENG 320
<b>ENGLISH 320: ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE AND FILM</b>	Class Hours per Week:	3
	Lab Hours:	0
	Credits:	3

A. Description

This is a class that will focus on a variety of timely and historical environmental and social justice issues related to sustainability at the local, national, and global level. We will read essays, fiction and poetry that establish the field of ecocriticism, then draw on readings and films that have expanded ecocriticism to include environmental justice, urban nature and we shall view films on themes related to the readings.

B. Prerequisites and/or Corequisites

English 201 or English 121

C. Student Outcomes

Students will

- Discuss course content in a range of critical contexts.
- Demonstrate knowledge of themes and genres of course texts.
- Critique the complexities and differences among course texts.

D. Required Texts and/or Supplementary Materials

*Sustainability: A Reader for Writers*, by Carol G. Herndl

*Forty Signs of Rain*, by Kim Stanley Robinson (or one other novel of environmental/climate fiction)

Other handouts with readings from the professor or online readings, and films and videos

Selection of eco-poetry

E. Evaluation and Requirements of Students

Students are expected to watch the full-length films shown during the class periods and to join in discussions of them. They will also do reading and writing assignments, which may include a research paper, and take a midterm and final examination. Grades will be assigned on the basis of students' total work in the class, which includes participation in discussion and group work as

well as written assignments, quizzes, and examinations.

### **College Attendance Policy**

At BMCC, the maximum number of absences is limited to one more hour than the number of hours a class meets in one week. For example, you may be enrolled in a three-hour class. In that class, you would be allowed 4 hours of absence (not 4 days). In the case of excessive absences, the instructor has the option to lower the grade or assign an F or WU grade.

### **Academic Adjustments for Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments for this course must contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities. BMCC is committed to providing equal access to all programs and curricula to all students.

### **BMCC Policy on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity Statement**

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the idea or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations, require citations to the original source. Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their instructors. The library has guides designed to help students to appropriately identify a cited work. The full policy can be found on BMCC's web site, [www.bmcc.cuny.edu](http://www.bmcc.cuny.edu). For further information on integrity and behavior, please consult the college bulletin (also available online).

## F. Outline of Topics

### Weeks 1-3

Literature of sustainability, land ethics, and nature

### Weeks 4-5

Trash, stuff, recycling  
Planned Obsolescence

### Weeks 6-8

Environmental justice  
Toxic discourse  
Global Warming

### Weeks 9-10

Environmental activism and its representations

### Weeks 11-13

Food justice  
Fair trade  
Sustainable Agriculture

Weeks 14-15  
Spirituality  
Eco-feminism