ENGL 1080 01 LITERATURE CORE: IN THE WILD (3 credits)
Boston College Summer Session 1, 2017 (May 16 - June 22)
Tuesday/Thursday, 9am - 12.15pm

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Course Description

The course catalogue stipulates: “In Literature Core, students explore the principal motives which prompt people to read literature: to assemble and assess the shape and values of one's own culture, to discover alternative ways of looking at the world, to gain insight into issues of permanent human importance as well as issues of contemporary urgency, and to enjoy the linguistic and formal satisfactions of literary art. Literature Core will strive to develop the student’s capacity to read and write with clarity and engagement, to allow for that dialogue between the past and present we call history, and to provide an introduction to literary genres.”

The readings for this course follow a broad organizing theme: each text delves into the concept of the wild in diverse ways. What is the relationship between humanity and nature? How have “civilized” cultures narrated their encounters with “wild” cultures across history? What makes humans go wild and “act out”? In short, how do we interact with the wilderness beyond, and indeed within, ourselves? We will read a selection of travel writings, novels, and memoirs in which authors grapple with these questions in the context of their particular historical and cultural conditions, and we will ask what the concept of the wild means for humanity today.

Textbooks & Readings (Required)

*The Isle of Pines* by Henry Neville (in *Three Early Modern Utopias*)
*Typee* by Herman Melville
*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
*Wild* by Cheryl Strayed

You must obtain the same editions, in hard copy, that are available at the BC Bookstore. This ensures that we all have the same page numbers to facilitate discussion and class efficiency.

Additional short readings will be provided by me as a pdf (and made available to you on Canvas). You should print these and bring them to class.
Canvas

Canvas is the Learning Management System (LMS) at Boston College, designed to help faculty and students share ideas, collaborate on assignments, discuss course readings and materials, submit assignments, and much more - all online. As a Boston College student, you should familiarize yourself with this important tool. For more information and training resources for using Canvas, click here.

Course Objectives

1. Students will gain a broader understanding and appreciation of literature as an intellectual and artistic product with broad significance, value, and application in today’s world.

2. Students will demonstrate appreciation for diverse cultural settings, and consider the impact of culture, gender, and age in a person’s experience of the world around them as demonstrated by texts set in different geographical locations from the seventeenth century to the present.

3. Students will consider their own ethical sensitivities and stance pertaining to cultural contact as a result of reading works of literature in a wide historical timeframe, and which include elements of misunderstanding, prejudice, colonial hierarchy, and domination.

4. Students will develop skill in expressing their ideas both orally and in writing, with the use of astute and carefully chosen textual evidence to support their deductions and arguments.

Course Schedule

**Tuesday May 16**  
class overview, poetry exercises - handout

**Thursday May 18**  
“Art as Technique,” *The Isle of Pines*

**Tuesday May 23**  
*Typee* I

**Thursday May 25**  
*Typee* II (paper I due 9am)

**Tuesday May 30**  
*Typee* III

**Thursday June 1**  
*Wuthering Heights* I

**Tuesday June 6**  
*Wuthering Heights* II

**Thursday June 8**  
*Wuthering Heights* III (midterm exam)
Course Homework Assignments
It is expected that you will spend 12 hours per week on out-of-class readings, assignments, and exercises. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time but the average is 12 hours per week over the semester.

Grading
Graded assignments in this course are as follows:

- Class Participation (20%)
- Discussion Leading (10%)
- Midterm Paper (10%)
- Midterm Exam (30%)
- Final Paper (30%)

The undergraduate grading system for Summer Session is as follows:

- A (4.00), A- (3.67)
- B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67)
- C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67)
- D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67)
- F (.00)

All students can access final grades through Agora after the grading deadline each semester. Transcripts are available through the Office of Student Services.

POLICIES

Written Work
Summer Session students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed and submitted in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA or CLA style per your instructor’s requirements. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation and spelling. For writing support, please contact the Connors Family Learning Center.
Deadlines and Late Work
Due to the nature of a 6-week course, deadlines are fixed. Please plan ahead to ensure that your work is completed on time. Late work will incur a half-step letter grade penalty immediately, and will accrue additional penalty every 24 hours. If emergency or illness arises that prevents you from meeting deadlines, stay in touch with me AND contact your Dean. In most circumstances extensions cannot be granted. (Becoming ill the day before a paper is due, for example, is not an excuse for incomplete work. A paper should be virtually FINISHED by that time.)

Attendance
Attending class is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. When circumstances prevent a student from attending class, the student is responsible for contacting the instructor before the class meets. Students who miss class are still expected to complete all assignments and meet all deadlines. Many instructors grade for participation; if you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class, nor can you reschedule a presentation/discussion leading assignment. Additional makeup work may be assigned at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. Please remember that missing one class in the summer session is equivalent to missing an entire week in the Fall or Spring semesters. Thus, absences may incur a penalty of 2 percentage points deducted from your final grade in the course.

Consistent with BC’s commitment to creating a learning environment that is respectful of persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing their academic status. Students are responsible for reviewing course syllabi as soon as possible, and for communicating with the instructor promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. Students are responsible for completing all class requirements for days missed due to conflicts with religious holidays.

Accommodation and Accessibility
Boston College is committed to providing accommodations to students, faculty, staff and visitors with disabilities. Specific documentation from the appropriate office is required for students seeking accommodation in Summer Session courses. Advanced notice and formal registration with the appropriate office is required to facilitate this process. There are two separate offices at BC that coordinate services for students with disabilities:

- The Connors Family Learning Center (CFLC) coordinates services for students with LD and ADHD.
- The Disabilities Services Office (DSO) coordinates services for all other disabilities.

Find out more about BC’s commitment to accessibility at [www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility](http://www.bc.edu/sites/accessibility).

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
Students in Summer Session courses must produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to cite references is plagiarism. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on exams or assignments, or submitting the same material or substantially similar material to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work. Please see the [Boston College](http://www.bc.edu).
Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.