Humans in Nature & Humans in Society

Humans in Nature

Fall 2020 – Nature is ... well, nature – right? It turns out that how people perceive nature – both in terms of what it is and what ends it serves – varies tremendously according to time, place, and cultural orientation.

In this course we will seek to gain an appreciation of how nature has been understood in America, from the exploratory period of Lewis and Clark, through the scientific advances and social upheavals of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, all the way to the present day.

Humans in Society

Spring 2021 – Drawing upon fiction, nonfiction, prose poetry, and film, spring course will focus on border crossings.

Sometimes this entails literal movement across political boundaries, reflecting the restless modern impulse to establish a sense of place in the world. Yet it also refers to borders in a more figurative sense, as represented by the limits and prohibitions against which people strive.

Along the way, you will compass a diverse array of human experience (and maybe a monster’s) while discussing alienation, displacement, and hybridity.

Humans LEAP FALL 2021

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