

Course Title: The Storyteller's Art II: Ecology and Catastrophe

Course Number and Section

ENGLISH

1028G 550

Instructor Name(s): Andrew Sargent

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Course Description:

This course covers a range of texts that explore and question the divisions between nature and culture, human society and ecology, human history and “natural history,” human and animal, natural disaster and “man-made” disaster. How does literature either challenge or reinforce the ways that we carve up the world into the “natural” and the “artificial,” “nature” and “human?” How does literature imagine ways of getting beyond these divisions? This course will devote special attention to texts and media that concern ecological catastrophe where the true extent of the entanglement of humans and nature becomes apparent, as well as the costs of denying that entanglement.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

1. Develop critical thinking and essay writing skills that will be applicable in further University courses
2. Engage with and analyze a variety of narrative media, including the novel, long and short poems, and film
3. Understand how narrative reckons with and shapes our relationship to the natural world
4. Identify key tropes and narrative patterns that inform our understanding of ecology

Textbooks and Course Materials:

H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine*, Broadview Press, 2001. Cost: 19.25

Octavia E. Butler. Parable of the Sower. Grand Central, 2023. Cost: 25.92

Second-hand editions are permitted

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
In-Class Test 1	02/05/2027	15

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
In-Class Test 2	03/10/2027	15
Participation	N/A	10
News Article Analysis	01/20/2027	10
Final Essay	04/07/2027	25
Final Exam	N/A	25

Wednesday, August 12, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.