

**ENG 1028G (550): The Storyteller's Art II**  
**Topic: Ecology and Catastrophe**  
**Winter, 2025**

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**Course Description:**

This course covers a wide range of texts (from the first century BCE to the present day) 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. Do these binaries hold up? What are the politics of creating and managing these categories? 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, and/or show us how these spheres overlap and were therefore never real to begin with? In addition to questions of environmental justice and animal rights, this course will devote special attention to texts and media that concern ecological catastrophe, as it is often through such disasters that the true extent of the entanglement of humans and nature becomes apparent, as well as the costs of denying that entanglement. Throughout this course, students will engage with genres such as poetry, short story, the novel, and film, and develop critical reading skills and media literacy to help them navigate contemporary debates around pressing topics such as climate change and environmental degradation.

