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ENGL 2095 – Ethics and the Environment: The Literature of Place

OER – Reflection

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In developing / gathering OER materials for this literature course, I worked with the library to ensure that students would be able to access and work with all required materials. While not all books are available as open access texts, through purchasing copies of e-books and placing copies of books on reserve on east and west campus, I feel confident that all my students – regardless of their ability to purchase materials – will be able to stay current and connected in the work of our class.

## Works Cited

Carson, Rachel. *Silent Spring*. Mariner Books, 1962. *EBSCOhost*,

[search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1870398&site=ehost-live](https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1870398&site=ehost-live).

Carson's informative scientific book inspired an international conversation on pesticides and pollution that is still timely today.

Johnson, Ayana Elizabeth, and Katharine K. Wilkinson. *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*. One World, 2020. *EBSCOhost*,

[search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=2395505&site=ehost-live](https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=2395505&site=ehost-live).

This recent compilation of essays and poetry by diverse women about environmental and climate justice will support our class in connecting to current activism and intersectional analyses.

Kenner, Robert, et al. *Food, Inc.* Magnolia Home Entertainment, 2013. <https://mnpals->

[cen.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01MNPALS\\_CEN/ten3pm/alma990089451040104273](https://cen.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01MNPALS_CEN/ten3pm/alma990089451040104273).

Kenner's documentary provides a foundational introduction to the infrastructure, political motivations, and land/seed practices shaping US food policy.

Leopold, Aldo. *A Sand County Almanac*. Oxford University Press, 2001. *EBSCOhost*,

[search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=2096900&site=ehost-live](https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=2096900&site=ehost-live).

Leopold's book – originally published in 1970 – is a foundational and inspirational call for humanity to recognize the relationships that exist within the natural world and to treat our environment with deep respect.

Kimmerer, Robin Wall. *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants*. Milkweed Editions, 2013, *EBSCOhost*, <https://web-p-ebscohost->

com.cenproxy.mnpals.net/ehost/detail/detail?vid=0&sid=94f5ef91-eebb-40c4-95ea-4ae731f74019%40redis&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWZWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3d%3d#AN=683745&d  
b=nlebk.

Kimmerer's text braids together the language and stories of science, Native American history and knowledge, and the power of plants. Kimmerer's orientation, storytelling, and brilliance is foundational for this course.

Montgomery, Sy. *How To Be a Good Creature: A Memoir in Thirteen Animals*. Mariner Books, 2018. *EBSCOhost*,

search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=1873331&site=ehost-live.

Montgomery's book offers us a lovely example of creative nonfiction in setting up a conversation around ethics through our relationships with animals, story, and connection.

Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden: And, On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*. The Floating Press, 2008. *EBSCOhost*,

search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=313633&site=ehost-live.

Thoreau's foundational text will usher our class into a conversation about solitude, our relationship with the land, the ways that society and societal pressures impact what we imagine to be possible, and how these questions connect to the ethos of America.

Unsettling Minnesota. "Unsettling Ourselves: Reflections and Resources for Deconstructing Colonial Mentality: A Sourcebook Compiled by Unsettling Minnesota." Sept 2009, [https://unsettlingminnesota.files.wordpress.com/2009/11/um\\_sourcebook\\_jan10\\_revision.pdf](https://unsettlingminnesota.files.wordpress.com/2009/11/um_sourcebook_jan10_revision.pdf).

This resource was developed by Unsettling Minnesota, a collective whose goals are:

"decolonization as well as the personal processes of unlearning our colonizer mentalities

in both heart and mind.” This sourcebook was created to support others in that work. It will serve as a foundational resource in examining the Dakota and Ojibwe history in this region and exploring decolonization.

Wagner, Nancy O’Brien et al., “Teacher Guide.” *Minnesota: A History of the Land*, the College of Natural Resources, University of Minnesota and the Education Department of the Minnesota Historical Society, *Bell Museum*, <https://www.bellmuseum.umn.edu/history-of-the-land/>.

This resource accompanies the documentary series that’s woven into the foundation of our class. These materials include maps, quizzes, background information, and discipline-specific materials.