

TERM: Spring 2026

COURSE NUMBER & CATEGORY: English 4500: Creative Artistry

COURSE TITLE: Eco-Poetics

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MW 3:40- 5:20

INSTRUCTOR: Kweku John

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

- No matter how much we may try, we cannot escape it. The climate crisis is upon us and anxiety surrounding the future of our planet seems to be growing day by day. But beyond alarming facts and figures, beyond the din of climate deniers, what is the role of poetry in all of this? Specifically, how can an investigation of African, Indigenous, and Afro-Indigenous eco-poetics better equip us to tackle the climate crisis, *creatively*? Moreover, what are the spiritual, cultural, and sociological intersections made possible by these investigations? Throughout this semester we will interrogate these large questions and many more through thoughtful inquiry, reflection, and dialogue.
- With these thematic frameworks in mind, this semester's mission is deceptively simple: to create new, experimental, and thought-provoking work. Like the university's ethos of educating the whole person, this course aims to educate the whole writer, with more attention paid to **process** over **product**. As such, we will analyze texts that highlight each step of the writing process including but not limited to ideation, drafting, revision, and performance.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Create new, engaging, interdisciplinary creative work.
- Appreciate multiple steps in the revision process including workshopping, peer-review, and self-reflection/assessment.
- Understand thematic echoes within a globally indigenous poetic framework.

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTYION:

Junior Senior Only

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES

N/A

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

OLD CURRICULUM

- ☐ GENRES (LD)
- ☐ HISTORIES (LD)
- ☐ AUTHORS (UD)
- ☐ CRITICAL/THEORETICAL (UD)
- ☐ COMPARATIVE (UD)
- ☒ CREATIVE/ARTISTRY

CORE ATTRIBUTES:

N/A

NEW CURRICULUM

- ☐ DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH (LD)
- ☐ HISTORY OF LIT, MEDIA, AND CULTURE (LD)
- ☐ READING AND WRITING GENRES (LD)
- ☐ THEORY, POWER, AND RHETORIC (LD)
- ☐ PRE-1800 (UD)
- ☒ CREATIVE ARTISTRY (UD)
- ☐ RACE, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND POWER (UD)
- ☐ UPPER-DIVISION ELECTIVE (UD)
- ☐ 5000-LEVEL SEMINAR (UD)