TERM: Spring 2027
COURSE NUMBER & CATEGORY: ENGL 6603: Seminar in a Major Writer
COURSE TITLE: Writing the Environment
SECTION TIMES/DAYS: Thursday 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM
INSTRUCTOR: Julia Lee

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

This course explores nature writing through the lens of Indigenous "kinship ecology," or the interconnectedness of all life forms. We will look at the history of the California landscape, the legacy of settler colonialism and Indigenous dispossession, and the waves of Asian migration that helped reshape its agriculture and gardens. We will read creative and critical work by Robin Wall Kimmerer, Margaret Renkl, Annie Dillard, Amy Tan, Jamaica Kincaid, Ross Gay, Camille Dungy, Aimee Nezhukamatatil, and others. We will also look at contemporary rewilding and restoration efforts, including the local bluebird trail established and maintained by local naturalist Ian Kimbrey and Center for Urban Resilience (CURes) fellow Lisa Fimiani.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- To learn the history of nature writing/writing about the environment
- To learn the history of Indigenous stewardship, settler colonialism, migration, and contemporary rewilding/restoration efforts
- To spend time interacting with the natural world
- To think critically about Indigenous cosmologies, posthumanism, and decolonization

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

GRADUATE ONLY

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

☐ Critical Methodology
☒ Major Writer / Genre / Literary Period
☐ Literature Elective
☐ Theory Elective
☐ Creative Writing Seminar
☐ Rhetoric / Composition Theory and Practice
☐ Linguistics OR Reading Theory
☐ Capstone