In many respects, environmental philosophy is a new area of study. Developing out of a concern that has grown over the past fifty years regarding the increasing and often negative impact of human action upon the earth, environmental philosophy has sought to help clarify and negotiate relations between the human and the non-human parts of the world. But the roots of environmental philosophy can be traced back further than the past fifty years. Many of the concerns of environmental philosophy are rooted in age-old philosophical questions. And a good number of contemporary issues were first broached in the nineteenth century. In addition to this historical depth, environmental philosophy also manifests a broad range of theoretical concern. While the greatest amount of work in environmental philosophy has been in the area of ethics, epistemological and metaphysical questions have also been broached. In this course, we will acquaint ourselves with many of the important issues in contemporary environmental philosophy—animal rights, deep ecology, ecofeminism, and political ecology. Furthermore, we will make a preliminary investigation of their historical antecedents and inquire into the future of this field of thought. As citizens of the world at a critical period of earth history, the study of environmental philosophy is vital to our thoughtful engagement with the challenges that confront us. It is my hope that our work in this class will provide us with an enhanced and enlightened ability to respond to these challenges.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Environmental Philosophy 3e, ed. Michael Zimmerman, et. al. (Prentice Hall)
The Maine Woods, Henry David Thoreau (Penguin)
Poetry, Language, Thought, Martin Heidegger (Harper Perennial)
The Practice of the Wild, Gary Snyder (North Point Press)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Four 2-3 page precis. (40% of final grade)

2. Critical Book Review (5-7 pages) selected from the list of recommended volumes. (20% of final grade)

3. Course Term Paper/Essay dealing with issues related to the general topic of the course. 10-12 pages in length. (40% of final grade)

4. You are expected to attend class regularly, read all assigned material on time, and participate in class discussions. More than one unexcused absence may result in a lowering of your grade.
NOTE

MTU complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). If you have a disability and need a reasonable accommodation for equal access to education or services at MTU, please call Dr. Gloria Melton, Associate Dean of Students, 487-2212. For other concerns about discrimination, you may contact your advisor, department chair, or the Affirmative Action Office (487-3310).

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

Week One: August 28th
1. Introduction

Week Two: September 4th
1. "All Animals Are Equal"
2. "Animal Rights, Human Wrongs"
3. "The Ethics of Respect for Nature"
4. "Animal Liberation and Environmental Ethics: Bad Marriage, Quick Divorce"

Week Three: September 11th
1. "The Land Ethic"
   3. "Challenges in Environmental Ethics"

Week Four: September 18th
1. "The Viable Human"
3. "Ecocentrism, Wilderness, and Global Ecosystem Protection"

Week Five: September 25th
1. "The Death of Nature"
   * 2. "Nature, Self, and Gender: Feminism, Environmental Philosophy and the Critique of Rationalism"
   3. "The Power and the Promise of Ecological Feminism"

Week Six: October 2nd
1. "Is Liberalism Environment Friendly?"
2. "What is Social Ecology?"
   * 3. "Ecotage"

Week Seven: October 9th
   * 1. "The Question Concerning Technology"
   2. "Building Dwelling Thinking"

Week Eight: October 16th
1. "The Origin of the Work of Art"
2. "Poetically Man Dwells"
Week Nine: October 23rd
1. “Ktaadn”
* 2. “Walking”

Week Ten: October 30th
1. “Chesuncook”
* 2. “A Winter Walk”

“The Wilding of America: Reclaiming America’s Wilderness,” A Lecture by David Foreman on Tuesday, November 5th at 8:00 p.m. in the Rozsa Center

Week Eleven: November 6th
1. “Allegash and East Branch”
* 2. “Wild Apples”

Week Twelve: November 13th
1. “The Etiquette of Freedom”
2. “The Place, the Region, and the Commons”
3. “Tawny Grammar”

Week Thirteen: November 20th
1. “Good, Wild, Sacred”
2. “Blue Mountain Constantly Walking”
4. “Survival and Sacrament”

***THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week Fourteen: December 4th
1. Research and Writing Workshop

Week Fifteen: December 11th
1. Seminar Presentations

***FINAL PAPER DUE

BOOK REVIEW LIST

Abbey, Edward:
* Desert Solitaire: A Season in the Wilderness

Aristotle:
* Physics
Berry, Wendell:
   The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture
   What Are People For?

Bigwood, Carol:
   Earth Muse: Feminism, Nature, and Art

Black Elk:
   The Sixth Grandfather: Black Elk's Teachings Given to John G. Neihardt

Bookchin, Murray:
   The Ecology of Freedom: The Emergence and Dissolution of Hierarchy

Bugbee, Henry:
   The Inward Morning

Carson, Rachel:
   Silent Spring

Dillard, Annie:
   Pilgrim at Tinker Creek

Eiseley, Loren:
   The Immense Journey

Lao Tzu:
   Tao Te Ching

Leopold, Aldo:
   A Sand County Almanac: And Sketches Here and There

Merchant, Carolyn:
   The Death of Nature

Mumford, Lewis:
   Technics and Civilization

Naess, Arne:
   Ecology, Community, and Lifestyle: Outline of an Ecosophy

Singer, Peter:
   Animal Liberation

Thoreau, Henry David:
   Walden
   A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers
   Wild Fruits