COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will explore how writers have responded to the increasingly incontrovertible evidence that we live in an age of ecological crisis. Starting from the premise that ecological crisis poses a crisis for narrative representation, we will consider how different literary forms—from bureaucratic satire to science fiction to conceptual poetry—help register key forms of environmental catastrophe: the toxic consequences of a newly interconnected world system; the human costs of ecological disaster; the corporate and capitalist logics of environmental destruction; and the long-term process of a changing climate. In addition to literature, we will consider how scientists, journalists, and cultural critics have worked to both document and narrate the crisis of climate change. Ultimately, our aim in this course will be, first, to develop a better factual understanding of the environmental challenges facing us today; and second, to think about how and why literature itself might remain a crucial way of responding to those challenges.

This seminar requires active and ongoing participation. In addition to sustained engagement with the course materials—in the form of conversation as well as short written responses—each student will be responsible for leading one class discussion. Students will write one short essay, and spend the rest of the semester developing and writing a final 8-10-page research project.

REQUIRED TEXTS
Margaret Atwood, *Oryx and Crake* (Anchor) / $15.95
J.G. Ballard, *The Drowned World* (Liveright) / $15.95
Don DeLillo, *White Noise* (Penguin Classics) / $17
Nathaniel Rich, *Odds Against Tomorrow* (Picador) / $17
Indra Sinha, *Animal's People* (Simon and Schuster) / $17