

HONORS 391: Honors Discovery Seminar – Fall 2020

Voices of Conservation and Sustainability

Department of Environmental Conservation

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HONORS 391A (SPIRE: 61554), 1 credit; Course website on Moodle

Tuesday, 4:00-4:50 pm, via Zoom

In principle, everyone likes farms and forests (and “the environment”) — at least they say they do. In practice, as evidenced by continuing loss of forest and farm land and the acceleration of global climate change, there is *plenty* of room for improvement at the local, regional, national, *and* global scale. In fact, as we surpass the ecological limits of this fragile Earth, our island home (BCP 1979:370), and the cumulative impact of ~330,000,000 Americans comes more clearly into view, it would be more accurate to say that, now more than ever, there is a conservation and sustainability imperative.

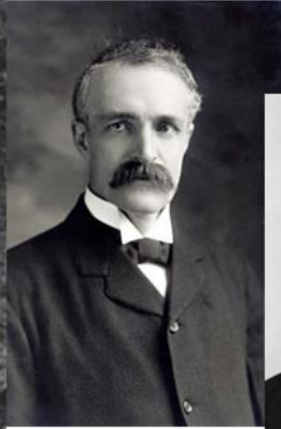
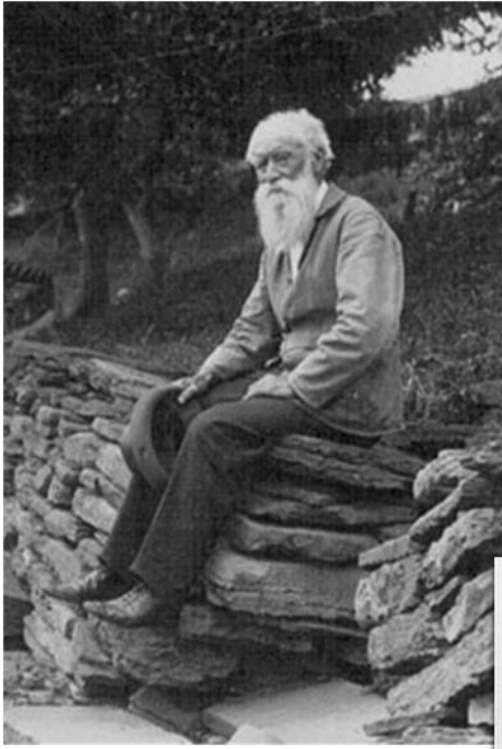
So, how can we live more sustainably? Who can we look to for guidance and encouragement? The diverse group of writers, thinkers, practitioners, and leaders listed below can help us to clarify our values, refine our attitudes, develop our communication skills, and sustain conscious actions. By the end of our seminar I hope that you will be: (1) inspired by their ideas and insights, (2) more attuned to the co-evolution of nature, culture, and place (*sensu Orion*), *and* (3) highly motivated to keep learning *and* leading by example. I recognize this is an ambitious and diverse reading list but posit that broad exposure to many authors is more effective than a detailed review of just a few.

Date	Session	Presentation/Discussion Topic ... <i>all readings on Moodle</i>
25 August	1	Introductions/expectations/learning objectives/general discussion
1 Sep	2	John Burroughs, Donald Hall
8 Sep	3	Aldo Leopold
-	4a	Watch documentary film and make some notes before our seminar
15 Sep	4b	Discussion of “ <i>Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time</i> ”
22 Sep	5	Sigurd Olson, Calvin Rutstrum
29 Sep	6	Rachel Carson, Elizabeth Kolbert
6 Oct	7	Helen Hoover, Wendell Berry
-	8a	Watch documentary film and make some notes before our seminar
13 Oct	8b	Discussion of “ <i>Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai</i> ” and “2% per year”
20 Oct	9	UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, President Emmanuel Macron
27 Oct	10	Robin Kimmerer (Potawatomi), Margaret Cromarty (<i>Eeyou</i> Cree)
3 Nov	11	Joseph Marshall (Lakota), Kent Nerburn (transcript of Lakota elder)
10 Nov	12	Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone, Duane Elgin
17 Nov	13	Each participant presents their working essay title and key themes
Seminar grade = Preparation and Participation (50%) ¹ + Essay peer review (15%) ² + Final Essay (35%) ³		
4 December, Fall 2020 semester ends (Final essay due dates below)		
8 December: Peer review due. (Word Track Changes); 12 December: Final essay due. (Word file)		

¹ Please read the weekly assignments in advance of our seminar and make notes on key points, quotes, and concepts so you can actively contribute to our round-table discussions.

² Thorough and constructive review and editing of a classmate’s draft essay in Word “Track Changes.”

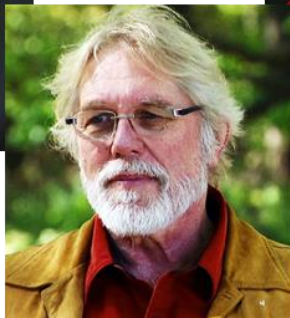
³ **WRITING PROMPT:** Write an essay (~800 to 1,000-words) that discusses the leader(s) who most influenced your awareness, values, attitudes, and/or behavior in relation to conservation and sustainability. (The essays will be included in a published compendium.)



John Burroughs — Gifford Pinchot — Theodore Roosevelt
Aldo Leopold — Rachel Carson
Sigurd and Elizabeth Olson — Helen and Adrian Hoover



Calvin Rutstrum — Wangari Maathai
David Owen — Tanya and Wendell Berry — Robin Wall Kimmerer
William and Margaret Cromarty — Joseph Marshall III
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki moon — Pope Francis



Duane Elgin — David Korten
Joanna Macy
Paul Hawken — Chris Johnstone
Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee
Elizabeth Kolbert — Chief Oren Lyons
Kent Nerburn

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Films

- Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time. <http://www.greenfiremovie.com/>
- Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai. <http://takingrootfilm.com/>



Dr. Wangari Muta Maathai (courtesy of the Green Belt Movement)