In this course, we use an Environmental Justice (EJ) framework to reflect on our own understandings of environmental issues and then build on that knowledge through a variety of readings, robust class discussion, creative class assignments and writing projects. Among our goals will be to unpack key environmental terms such as “wilderness,” “nature” and “environment.” In doing this we will grapple with questions of how environmental ideals have evolved in the dominant American culture and whose experiences might be erased from those perceptions. Throughout the course we will explore the role of writing in communicating complex, environmentally-themed problems. With a particular focus on genre and rhetorical (persuasive writing) strategies, we will think about the power of language and writing to articulate ideas, communicate nuanced arguments and educate target audiences.

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