



School of Modern Languages

Nature and Ecology in German Culture

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German-language countries consistently rank high in international studies comparing "green" records. Newsweek magazine writes: "No country is more green by design", referring to the fact that in Germany "green thinking" is not only a matter of policies, but also embedded in culture and mentality. This module explores and critically assesses the history, variety and design of ecological thinking in the German-speaking world. It focuses on (1) an ethics of environmental responsibility; (2) literary reflections on how humans engage with their natural environments; (3) current affairs such as the role of green issues in contemporary politics, modern environmentalism and its history, the history of the Green Party.



This module is taught in German and English.

Assessment: 90-minute exam (50%) and 2000-word essay (50%)



Nature throughout history has served as a projection screen for a wide range of contradictory qualities, ranging from anti-human chaos to the very epitome of the human. We will discuss how these various concepts change in a time of global ecological crisis and what kind of challenge the scientific concept of nature as ecology poses to how we think about ourselves as individuals and social beings.