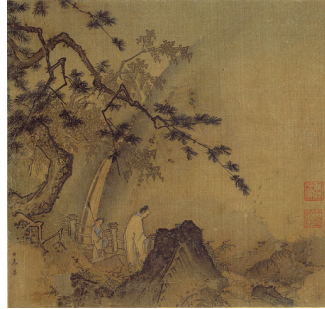


Writing a Sense of Place: Land and Language/Settling the Mind in Wilderness (WRIT 353)



Times/dates: 3:30-6:20pm Wednesdays / Jan-April 2021

Instructor: Tim Lilburn, with recurring guest Phillip Kevin Paul (W̱SÁNEĆ Nation)

Email: tlilburn@uvic.ca

CRN: 22941 [Click here for registration details](#)

Course description: This course has two concerns, which, I hope, will begin to merge as the class reaches its conclusion. The first will focus on the traditions of nature writing & writing about place in multiple genres: primarily in poetry, nonfiction & film. We will focus on nature writing at its two points of great achievement: North America (late 20th/early 21st century) & T'ang Dynasty China (7th/8th centuries). Themes & discussions will arise from these questions:

- Why were these two periods, along with the Upper Paleolithic and Industrial Revolution England, moments of intense human artistic interest in the natural environment?
- Why does the East have a long tradition of nature writing and the West does not?
- How do you breed a deep relationship with place in newcomers?
- How do you apprentice yourself to a piece of land?

The second concern will focus on Indigenous attitudes toward land as they are available through traditional place names and accompanying stories and teaching. Guest Phillip Kevin Paul will direct many discussions around these issues, including:

- the land and its peoples
- forms of language about land
- dispossession and its effects
- laws surrounding and about the land.

Proposed texts:

Saltwater People, Dave Elliot, Sr. • *The Eye in the Thicket*, Sean Virgo, ed. • *The Mountain Poems of Hsieh Ling-yün*, David Hinton, trans. • *Saanich Ethnobotany, Culturally Important Plants of the W̱SÁNEĆ People*, Nancy J. Turner & Richard J. Hebda

Proposed assignments:

Personal braided essay on a significant place (40%) • presentation (lectio-based, an ontological lectio) on your significant place and your reflection on it (15%) • take-home exam (35%) • participation (10%).

