

Ecology of Place

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Revised August 19, 2022



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Contents

Preface	vii
Ana Zalyubovskiy	
Overview	1
<i>What is Ecology of Place</i>	
Ana Zalyubovskiy	
<u>MAIN BODY</u>	
UNIT 1: Place-Based Narrative Writing and the Argument	3
<i>Place-Based Narrative Writing and the Argument</i>	
Ana Zalyubovskiy	
<i>Unit 1 Readings</i>	3
UNIT 2: Ecological Foundations and Definitions	5
<i>Ecological Foundations and Definitions</i>	
Ana Zalyubovskiy	
<i>Unit 2 Readings</i>	5

UNIT 3: The Formal Argument: Ecological Voices and Changemakers	8
<i>The Formal Argument: Ecological Voices and Changemakers</i> Ana Zalyubovskiy	
<i>Unit 3.1 Readings: Ecological Attitudes, Economics and Regulations</i>	9
<i>Unit 3.2 Readings: Climate Change, Deforestation, Animals and the Rights of Nature</i>	11
<i>Unit 3.3 Readings: Indigenous Peoples, Knowledge, Land Use and Environmental Justice, uRBAN ECOLOGY</i>	13
Acknowledgements Ana Zalyubovskiy	17

Preface

ANA ZALYUBOVSKIY

Ecology of Place began the summer of 2020. As the world grappled with serious environmental and social changes worldwide, it became obvious that preserving the earth was the most critical topic of our times, and that students needed to read, discuss and write about it. I was also concerned with rising costs of composition textbooks for students. This free book of readings for composition students, comprised of curated links, is one solution. The readings in the book have been carefully chosen to represent diverse domestic and international voices in the field of ecology, news and opinions about ecological issues, and literary masters writing in a variety of genres about nature, ecology and environmental justice. Many of the readings overlap categories, and because the list is broad, readers may find a few overlapping connections that have not been attributed to a reading.

In 2020, as devastating fires swept through the West Coast and Covid-19 was changing lives in every part of the world, the University of Oregon instituted the UO Environment Initiative to promote questions and responses to the environmental changes that have resulted in “dramatic ecological shifts to all our natural systems” (UO Office of the Provost). Along with its Center for Environmental Futures, the University is primed to act as a change agent in new faculty and student-led actions, discussions and

research approaches to address the challenges of 2021 and beyond. This book aligns itself with values of conservation, preservation and increasing awareness about choices that will affect the Earth, and its goal is to engage students in inquiry to find questions and answers related to the places they know and love.

Overview

What is Ecology of Place

ANA ZALYUBOVSKIY

What is *Ecology of Place*?

Ecology of Place is concerned with the values of conservation and preservation people place on their relationship to the earth, its features and its inhabitants. By knowing a place and naming its constituents we discover our responsibilities and the meanings of its interdependencies. We may undergo the transformation from outside observer to aware partner, and our informed critical discussions can impact the evolution of society. *Place* itself rests in particularity and uniqueness. As we come to know and understand a particular place, it often becomes so intertwined with our life story, and the life stories of everything that lives there, that we can't separate ourselves from the place. A place then becomes part of our voice as we incorporate its story into our lives.

The *Ecology of Place* collection of readings for composition students contains three units designed to support the University of Oregon Composition Program's student learning outcomes.

UNIT 1: Place-Based Narrative Writing and the Argument

Place-Based Narrative Writing and the Argument

ANA ZALYUBOVSKIY

In this unit students explore and practice narrative as a foundation for rhetoric, the art of persuasion. Introducing some of the foundational topics within the Ecology of Place theme, the work includes representative narrative essays that invite questions about natural and urban spaces and our place within them. Although narration may also play a part in more formal argumentative essays, the readings and other media in Unit 1 are especially applicable to using primarily narration as the mode of discourse and will be helpful models for studying narrative technique and eliciting discussion. Themes include environmental justice, climate change, animal cognition, indigenous knowledge, geography's effect on people, and the benefits of spending time in nature.

UNIT 1 READINGS

[Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi: "The Danger of a Single Story," TEDGlobal, ted.com, July 2009.](#) (Video: 18:34 min.)

[Birch, Tony. "Recovering a Narrative of Place: Stories in the Time](#)

[of Climate Change," excerpt from "First Things First," 60th edition of Griffith Review, The Conversation April 26, 2018.](#)

[Cooper, Christian. *It's a Bird. Represent 2020* \(Click link to search title and download a FREE copy\).](#)

[Dillard, Annie. "Living Like Weasels," *Teaching a Stone to Talk: Expeditions and Encounters*, Oct. 13, 2009, HarperCollins.](#)

[Finney, Carolyn. "This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land: People and Public Lands Redux." *The George Wright Forum*, Vol. 27, No 3, 2010, pp. 247-254.](#)

[Kimmerer, Robin. "Take What is Given to You." Robin Kimmerer, *Bioneers Reader: Intelligence in Nature*, Bioneers.org, 2014.](#)

[Lopez, Barry. "The invitation." *Granta* 133, November 18, 2015.](#)

[Lopez, Barry. "A Literature of Place." *Portland Magazine*, Summer 1997.](#)

[Mason, Ron and Charles Massey. "Holding Up the Sky." \(Excerpt\) *Granta* 153, November 19, 2020.](#)

[Nurnberger, Kathryn. "Against an Apocalyptic Vision." *Brevity Magazine*. brevitymag.com. September 3, 2021.](#)

[Shiva, Vandana. "Everything I Need to Know I Learned in the Forest." *Yes!* May 3, 2019.](#)

[Rafeyenko, Volodymyr. "Signs of an Approaching War." *Granta*. granta.com. London, UK, July 28, 2022.](#)

[Wallace, David Foster. "Consider the Lobster." *Gourmet Magazine*, 2004 \(excerpt from *Consider the Lobster and Other Essays*, Little, Brown and Co. 2005.](#)

UNIT 2: Ecological Foundations and Definitions

Ecological Foundations and Definitions

ANA ZALYUBOVSKIY

This unit introduces some of the foundational ideas, definitions and questions surrounding the *Ecology of Place* theme: What is *environmental justice*? What role do economies play in ecological disruptions? Is there a need for ecological thinking about *urban areas*? Does the way we form opinions impact biodiversity? Is there a unified front in ecological activism, or should there be? Should ecocide be criminalized? How does connecting or disconnecting with nature influence us?

UNIT 2 READINGS

[Arup. "Arup Explores: Regenerative Design."](#) April 9, 2020. (Video: 7:26)

[Bogado, Aura and Eve Andrews. "Environmental Justice, Explained,"](#) *Grist*, Jan. 26, 2016. (Video: 3:33 min)

[Eisenstein, Jimi. "What is Regenerative Agriculture?"](#) (Video: 3:53 min.)

[Elbow, Peter. "The Believing Game—Methodological Believing."](#)

[University of Massachusetts Amhurst. *The Journal of the Assembly for Expanded Perspectives on Learning*, 5.](#)

[Gibson, David. "It's Ecology, Not Environmental Science," *OUP Blog*, May 16, 2012.](#)

[Marks, Laura. Illustration by Irma Kniivila. "Ask an Environmental Expert: What's the Carbon Footprint of the Internet?" *The Walrus*. June 9, 2022.](#)

[Macaulay Honors College, CUNY. Science Forward- "Urban Ecology," License: CC-BY-SA-NC \(Video: 10:04 min.\)](#)

["Interactive Map of Indigenous Land and Land Stolen from Indigenous People." Native Land Digital. 2021. Native-land.ca.](#)

[NCBI, Committee on Noneconomic and Economic Value of Biodiversity, National Research Council; National Research Council \(U.S.\). Committee on Noneconomic and Economic Value of Biodiversity. "What is Biodiversity?" *Perspectives on Biodiversity: Valuing its Role in an Everchanging World*. National Academy of Sciences, 1999.](#)

[powell, john a. "You're Not by Yourself: john a. powell on Interbeing," *Bioneers*, bioneers.org, 2014. \(Video: 20:52 min.\)](#)

[Scalise Sugiyama, M. \(2021\). *Talking Stories: Encyclopedia of Traditional Ecological Knowledge*.](#)

[Stancil, Kenny. "To End Impunity for 'Deliberate Destruction' of the Planet, International Lawyers Drafting Plan to Criminalize Ecocide." *Common Dreams*, commondreams.org, 30 Nov. 2020.](#)

[Steinberger, Julia and Georgios Kallis. "Ecological Economics Explained." *Rethinking Economics Rotterdam*. YouTube. Oct. 8, 2020. \(5:40 minutes\)](#)

[Stevens, Robert. "Traditional Ecological Knowledge & Place-Based Learning Communities." Humboldt PBLC, 9 August 2019. \(Video: 10:32 min.\)](#)

[Storr, Will "The Story of a Self" *Creative Nonfiction: Memoir*, Issue 73, Creative Nonfiction Foundation, Pittsburgh PA, Fall 2020, Pp 6-9. \(Request this article from your library by Interlibrary Loan\)](#)

[Weiner, Eric. "How Geography Shapes Our Identity." *Trend Magazine*. Pew. July 5 2016.](#)

[White, Matthew P. et al. "Spending at Least 120 Minutes a Week in Nature is Associated with Good Health and Wellbeing." *Nature.com*, *Scientific Reports* volume 9, Article number: 7730, 2019.](#)

UNIT 3: *The Formal Argument: Ecological Voices and Changemakers*

The Formal Argument: Ecological Voices and Changemakers

ANA ZALYUBOVSKIY

This unit introduces some of the critical voices and ideas surrounding *Ecology of Place*. The list of readings is, for the sake of brevity, limited: there are many, many significant voices writing and speaking about biodiversity and ecological issues. Readings presented here will spur students on to explore, choose an individual topic and question at issue for an enthymeme-based argumentative essay, read and research about it, and limit the scope enough to be able to present an in-depth discussion of their chosen facet of the argument. Students are invited to browse through the categories and titles to see which ones pique their interest or bring up a question: Is there a topic here that relates to your major in some way? Have you touched on related ideas in another class that you would like to follow up on? Have you experienced a place that has a serious ecological problem? A great goal is to find a topic you can feel passionate about.

The unit includes a 12-category selection of Ecology of Place issues with links to corresponding articles and other media forms. Many texts overlap categories.

Key to Topic Category Abbreviations

ANI: animals; **CLI:** climate change; **DEF:** deforestation; **EA:** ecological attitudes; **ECON:** economics; **ENJU:** environmental justice; **INDIG:** indigenous peoples; **KNOW:** knowledge; **LAND:** land use; **REG:** regulations; **RIGH:** the rights of nature; **URB:** urban ecology.

UNIT 3.1 READINGS: ECOLOGICAL ATTITUDES, ECONOMICS AND REGULATIONS

CLI-DEF-EA-ECON-LAND-URB

[Coady, Theresa. "Rebuilding Earth's Forest Corridors: Renewing Connections Above and Below." kosmosjournal.org. Excerpted from *Rebuilding Earth: Designing Ecoconscious Habitats for Humans*, North Atlantic Books, 2020.](#)

CLI-ECON-REG

["Debunking Science Denialism." Editorial, *Nature Human Behavior*, 3, 887. June 24, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-019-0746-8>](#)

EA-ECON

[Elgin, Duane. "Great Transition Stories for Becoming a Global Eco-Civilization." *duaneelgin.com, Great Transition Stories*, \[greattransitionstories.org\]\(http://greattransitionstories.org\), August 5, 2014.](#)

EA-ECON-CLI-REG

[Felber, Christian. "Economy for the Common Good." RSA \(Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commence\). YouTube. Aug. 18, 2016. \(27:03 minutes\)](#)

EA-INDIG-LAND-REG

[Hardin, Garrett. "The Tragedy of the Commons." *AAAS Science*, \[sciencemag.org\]\(http://sciencemag.org\), Pp. 1243-1248, Dec. 13, 1968.](#)

EA-ECON-INDIG-REG-URB

[Korten, David. "The New Economy: A Living Earth System Model." \[davidkorten.org\]\(http://davidkorten.org\), *The Next System Project*, pp. 1-15.](#)

CLI-EA-RIGH

[Margil, Mari. "Advancing Change in a Time of Disruption: Forging a New Pathway for Nature." *Common Dreams* commondreams.com April 1, 2020](#)

CLI-EA-LAND-REG-URB

[McDonough, William. "Cradle to Cradle Design." TED, ted.com, Feb. 2005. \(Video: 20:05 min\)](#)

CLI-ECON-REG-URB

[Newburger, Emma. "Trump is Rolling Back over 80 Environmental Regulations. Here Are Five Big Changes You Might Have Missed in 2019." *CNBC*, cnbc.com, 3 Jan. 2020.](#)

CLI-EA-ECON-INDIG-KNOW

[Norberg-Hodge, Helena. "What Indigenous Wisdom Can Teach Us about Economics: Strengthening Local Economies." *#CuraDa Terra* essay series, *Kosmos Journal*, kosmosjournal.org, Fall 2020.](#)

CLI-ECON-REG-LAND-URB

[Omkuti, Jessica.. "Climate Adaptation Finance is Ineffective and must be More Transparent." *The Conversation*, theconversation.com, 13 May 2021.](#)

EA-LAND

[Robbins, Jim. "Ecopsychology: How Immersion in Nature Benefits Your Health." Yale University, yels.edu, 9 Jan. 2020.](#)

CLI-ECON-REG

[Rowland-Shea, Jenny and Mary Ellen Kustin. "A 13.5 Million Acre Lie." Center for American Progress, 20 March 2019.](#)

ECON-CLI-EA-REG

[Sadasivam, Naveena. "Regulating While Sheltering." *Grist*, grist.org, 14 Apr. 2020.](#)

CLI-EA-ECON-LAND

[Shiva, Vandana. "Big Data Doesn't Add Up—Except to Disaster." *Resurgence & Ecologist*, Issue 305: Light in the Dark Days, resurgence.org, November/December 2017.](#)

ECON-EA-LAND-KNOW-INDIG

[Todd, John. "The Ecological Design Revolution" *Bioneers*, bioneers.org, 12 19 2014. \(Video: 23:24\)](#)

UNIT 3.2 READINGS: CLIMATE CHANGE, DEFORESTATION, ANIMALS AND THE RIGHTS OF NATURE

CLI-DEF-REG

[Ceslo H.L. Silva, Jr. et al. "The Brazilian Amazon Deforestation Rate in 2020 Is the Greatest of the Decade." *Nature: Correspondence*. *nature.org*, 21 Dec 2020.](#)

RIGH-DEF-LAND-ANI

[Chapron, Guillaume, Yaffa Epstein and José Vicente López-Bao. "A Rights Revolution for Nature." *Science*, 14 Mar 2019, vol 363, Issue 6434, pp. 1392-1393.](#)

DEF-CLI-REG-LAND-EA

[Dellasala, Dominick A. et al. "Letters: Post-Fire Logging Debate Ignores Many Issues." Commentary: *Science*, Nov 2006, 314\(5796\):51-2.](#)

CLI-ECON

[Evich, Helena Bottemiller. "I'm Standing Right Here in the Middle of Climate Change: How the USDA is Failing Farmers." *Politico*, 15 Oct. 2019.](#)

EA-ENJU-RIGH-LAND

[Galeano, Eduardo. "Nature is not Mute." *IPS News*, *ipsnews.net*, April 2008.](#)

DEF-CLI-REG-LAND-EA-URB

[Gramling, Carolyn. "Why Planting Tons of Trees Isn't Enough to Solve Climate Change." *Science News*, 9 July 2021.](#)

ANI-CLI-EA-ECON

[Jenson, Derrick. "Beyond Civilization." *Orion Magazine*, *orionmagazine.org*, 11 December 2019.](#)

CLI-EA-ENJU-LAND

[Kolbert, Elizabeth. Excerpt from *Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change*. Bloomsbury, USA, 2006.](#)

CLI-REG

[Herring, David. ""Isn't There a Lot of Disagreement among Climate Scientists about Global Warming?" NOAA, 3 February 2020.](#)

ANI-EA-ECON

[Hall, Lee. "Hogwash! Or, How Animal Advocates Enable Corporate Spin." *Dissident Voice*, dissidentvoice.org, 29 August 2007.](#)

ANI-CLI-DEF-EA

[Hilborn, Ray. "Keep Eating Fish: It's the Best Way to Feed the World." OUPblog. Oxford University Press's Academic Insights for the Thinking World, blogoup.com, May 31 2019.](#)

EA-REG-RIGH

[Levang, Emily. Can We Protect Nature by Giving it Rights? University of Minnesota., Environmental Institute: Ensia. 4 Feb. 2020](#)

EA-REG-RIGH

[Margil, Mari. "Nature and the Law." *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*, democracyjournal.org, 20 Dec. 2016.](#)

ANI-CLI-DEF

[MacGowan, Brian. "Harvesting Our Forests – The Wildlife Debate." Department of Forestry & Natural Resources, Purdue University, 31 Jan. 2018.](#)

CLI-ANI-RIGH-EA-REG-ECON

[Monbiot, George. "Stop Eating Fish. It's the Only Way to Save the Life in Our Seas." *The Guardian*, 9 May 2019.](#)

ANI-RIGH-EA-REG

[Nelson, Michael Paul, et al. "Emotions and the Ethics of Consequence in Conservation Decisions: Lessons from Cecil the Lion." *Conservation Letters*. Society for Conservation Biology. Jan. 28 2016.](#)

DEF-CLI-REG-LAND-EA

[Robins, Becki. "To Save the Redwoods, Scientists Debate Burning and Logging." *Undark*, 16 12 2019.](#)

ANI-EA-RIGH

[Safina, Carl. "What Animals Think and Feel." *Bioneers*, 2014, Pp. 10-15.](#)

ANI-CLI-EA

[Shah, Sonia. "Think Exotic Animals Are to Blame for the Coronavirus? Think Again." *The Nation*, 18 Feb. 2020.](#)

ANI-DEF-RIGH

[Quammen, David. "Clone Your Troubles Away." *Harpers*, February 2005.](#)

ANI-EA

[Regan, Tom. "The Case for Animal Rights." Excerpt from "A Case for Animal Rights." In M.W. Fox & L.D. Mickley \(Eds.\), *Advances in Animal Welfare Science*, 1986/87 \(pp. 179-189\). Washington, DC: The Humane Society of the United States. The Humane Society Institute for Science and Policy Animal Studies Repository, 1986.](#)

CLI-DEF-REG

[Weise, Mikaela and Elizabeth Dow Goldman. "We Lost a Football Pitch of Primary Rainforest every 6 Seconds in 2019." World Resources Institute, \[wri.org\]\(http://wri.org\), 2 June 2020.](#)

UNIT 3.3 READINGS: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, KNOWLEDGE, LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, URBAN ECOLOGY

ENJU-INDIG-KNOW-LAND-REG

[Anderson, Terry L. "The Case for Transferring Federal Lands Back to Native Americans." *The Hill*, 3 June 2020.](#)

CLI-ENJU-LAND-INDIG

[Baker, Janelle and Paulla Ebron, Rosa Ficek, Karen Ho, Renya Ramirez, Zoe Todd, Anna Tsing, Sarah E. Vaughn. "The Snarled Lines of Justice: Women Ecowarriors Map A New History Of The Anthropocene." *Orion Magazine*, \[orionmagazine.org\]\(http://orionmagazine.org\), 19 Nov. 2020.](#)

ENJU-REG-LAND-URB

[Beatley, Tim. "The Natureful City: Rediscovering Nature during a Pandemic." *Biophilic Cities Journal*. Vol. 4 No.1, April 2021, Pp. 6-9.](#)

ENJU-REG-URB

[Berardelli, Jeff and Peggy Shepard. "Summer's Social Unrest Highlights Environmental Racism in the U.S." CBS News. July 17, 2020. \(Video: 10:44 min.\)](#)

ENJU-REG-LAND-URB

[Bhat, Meera. "Opinion: For People Working to Protect Nature, Cities Can No Longer be an Afterthought." *Ensi*, ensia.com, 14 Sept. 2018.](#)

EA-ENJU-INDIG-REG-URB

[Buford, Talia. "A Brief History of Environmental Justice." *ProPublica*, 4 August 2017. \(Video: 3:35 min\)](#)

URB- LAND- REG- ENJU

[Lieber, John. "Urban Ecology: A Bright Future for Sustainable Cities." *The Revelator*. 14 Dec. 2018.](#)

ECON-ENJU-INDIG-LAND-REG

[Norberg-Hodge, Helena. "What Indigenous Wisdom Can Teach Us about Economics: Strengthening Local Economies." *#CuraDa Terra* essay series, *Kosmos Journal*, kosmosjournal.org, Fall 2020.](#)

CLI-ENJU-INDIG-LAND-REG-URB

[Isaacson, Walter. "'Pollution is Segregated' Says the Father of Environmental Justice." PBS, *Amanpor and Company*, Interview with Robert Bullard, 3 March 2020. \(Video: 17:43 min.\)](#)

ENJU-INDIG-LAND-REG

[Koza, Fiona and Naolo Charles, Jennifer Beeman, Ingrid Waldron, Dayna Scott, Kristian Ferreira and Peter Wood. "Canada's Big Chances to Address Environmental Racism." *TheTyee.ca*, 26 Nov 2020.](#)

ENJU-KNOW-LAND-REG-URB

[Lantham, Drew J. "Nine New Revelations for the Black American Bird-Watcher." *Vanity Fair*, 27 May 2020.](#)

ENJU-KNOW-LAND-REG-URB

[Lantham, Drew J. "Nine Rules for the Woke Bird-Watcher." *Orion Magazine*, 3 Dec. 2020.](#)

ANI-CLI-EA-INDIG-KNOW-LAND

[Nicholas, George. "Indigenous Intelligence: Diverse Solutions for the 21st Century, 'When Scientists 'Discover' What Indigenous People Have Known For Centuries." *The Conversation*, smithsonianmag.com, 21 February 2018.](#)

CLI-EA-INDIG-KNOW-LAND-REG

[Martinez, Dennis. "Indigenous Integrity." *Resurgence & Ecologist*, resurgence.org, Issue 250, September/October 2008.](#)

CLI-EA-ENJU-INDIG-KNOW-LAND-REG

["Indigenous People's Collective Rights to Lands, Territories and Resources." The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, un.org, 19 April 2018.](#)

ENJU-EA-URB

[Seamans, Georgia Silvera. "The Risks and Rewards of Being Black in Nature." *Medium*. medium.com. August 21, 2020.](#)

Acknowledgements

ANA ZALYUBOVSKIY

Ecology of Place was written to be freely used by composition instructors teaching in the University of Oregon Composition Program and other writing programs. The book was inspired or assisted at various stages by the following people, and I want to thank them. Jenée Wilde, PhD and Steve Rust PhD, whose book *Culture of Science* was wonderful and such a useful resource for teaching Writing 123. After teaching with the book, I was inspired to use it as a model for this one. In several discussions, Emily Simnitt, PhD, and I discussed the need for low-cost textbooks for Writing 122 and what those might look like. She enthusiastically encouraged me to move forward with the project and share it with instructors. Much thanks also to Rayne Vieger of UO Libraries, who assisted with finishing touches to get the manuscript into its book form. Lastly, grateful thanks to the University of Oregon Composition Committee and special thanks to Steven Rust and his Spring 2022 writing students for reviewing this book and offering revision comments to make it a better book.