**REFERENCES FOR OUTDOOR SCHOOL**

**Prof. Diane Borsato**

**1. NATIVES AND INVASIVES: (CBC Science Podcast)**

Listen to the CBC Ideas podcast. Prepare to discuss some of these questions: Give examples of some of the ways plants are named and described. Who names them and why?

How do names – scientific or common - affect our understanding of nature? Is nature science objective? How do human values and fears come into conflict with ecological systems? Are humans “invasive” species? Bonus points for someone who wants to evocatively describe “rock snot”.

 CBC Ideas: *Bioinvastion: Attack of the Invasive Species*, Barbara Nichol, 2014.

<http://www.cbc.ca/radio/ideas/bioinvasion-attack-of-the-alien-species-1.2914085> (on blog)

(OPTIONAL) CBC Quirks and Quarks: Why Invasive Species Aren’t All Bad, Bob MacDonald, <http://www.cbc.ca/radio/quirks/quirks-quarks-for-dec-6-2014-1.2864605/why-invasive-species-aren-t-all-bad-1.2864676> (on blog)

**\*2. STORIES OF ANIMALS: (Cultural Geography)**

Discuss some of the ways movies/tv have represented wild animals. What are the key stories that are told? What do they celebrate and promote, and what do they leave out? Give specific examples.

The Culture of Nature, by Alexander Wilson. Blackwell,Cambridge, MA.,1992. *Looking at the Non-Human: Nature Movies and TV.*

**3. WILD ANIMALS: FILM: (Art/Documentary Film)**

In class, discuss how Timothy Treadwell saw and understood the bears. Compare his assumptions about bears and other wild animals, to the ideas of indigenous people of the area, and of other workers and conservationists. Whose ideas make the most sense? Is sentimentalizing, or anthropomorphizing animals dangerous? How can we live together with wild animals?

 Grizzly Man, Directed by Werner Herzog, 2005. 104 minutes

**\*4. CULTURE OF NATURE: (Cultural Geography)**

Use references from the Alexander Wilson reading *Introduction* and *View from the Road*from The Culture of Nature to discuss two of the following tourism ads in light of Wilson’s arguments for how wilderness is described. See the link to the ads on our blog: [https://experimentalstudio.ca/outdoorschool/2016/10/28/looking-at-nature-tourism/](https://experimentalstudio.ca/outdoorschool/2016/10/28/looking-at-nature-tourism/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

*Introduction* and *View from the Road*from The Culture of Nature, by Alexander Wilson,1991.

(OPTIONAL) Chapter 2: *Nature Education and Promotion* is optional reading for your interest.

*Introduction* and excerpts from *The View From the Road,* and (optional) *Nature Education and Promotion* from The Culture of Nature, by Alexander Wilson,1991.

**\*5. BIRDS: (Memoir/Literature)**

H is for Hawk is a work of literary non-fiction about the authour’s efforts to train a savage predator – a goshawk. Mourning the recent death of her father, Helen MacDonald reflects on a history of the complex practice of falconry and the writings of author T.H. White’s chronicle *The Goshawk* – while she tries to tame her own irascible bird.

Read chapters 5: *Holding Tight,* and 7: *Invisibility.* (The other chapters provide excellent further context and are optional). In your reading response, consider how the descriptions of the behaviours of this animal are thrown into contrast – or comparison – to MacDonald’s own human culture and condition. What is the nature of their relationship, and how do they (or do they not) connect across worlds?

Excerpts from H is for Hawk, by Helen MacDonald. Jonathan Cape, London, 2014.

**\*6. PLANTS: (Human Ecology/Indigenous Knowledge)**

Discuss some of the differences between indigenous ways of knowing, and conventionally scientific ways of knowing as presented by Kimmerer. How do the findings of her student propose a way forward for living together with nature?

Braiding Sweetgrass: *Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall-Kimmerer*.* Milkweed Editons, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 2013.

Reclaiming the Honorable Harvest: Robin Kimmerer at TEDxSitka

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lz1vgfZ3etE> (on blog)

VISUAL ART:(Sculpture, Social Practices, Performances, Conceptual Art, New Media)

 Some of artists discussed in class will include:

Mark Dion

Shawna Dempsey and Lori Milan

Rebecca Belmore

John Cage

Simon Starling

Kent Monkman

Richard Long

Jane Hutton and Adrian Blackwell

Tim Knowles

Andy Goldsworthy

Kelly Jazvac

Katie Patterson

Wolfgang Laib

Nina Katchadourian

Broken City Lab

Olafur Eliasson

Walter De Maria

Maggie Groat

Hannah Jickling and Helen Reed

Lucy and Jorge Orta

Francis Alys

Canary Project

We will also be looking at past student work.

For a complete list see COURSE BLOG: https://experimentalstudio.ca/outdoorschool/