**Spring 2017, 070.634 The End of Nature?**

Naveeda Khan, Anthropology

Mondays 11-1

Merganthaler

**Objectives:**

To return us to the scene of nature’s death within social theory, to inquire into its many figurations, to ask what is to be gained by considering the viability of nature as a concept good to think with within anthropology, to explore the archives of anthropology with this elusive goal in mind and to finally land at a romantic notion of nature as yet naturing, elusive, indifferent, yet persistent to suggest that we may never have stepped out of nature. What would it mean to consider all of anthropology’s most precious writings and figures to have been always speaking about nature rather than or in addition to say the social, political or the everyday?

**Assignments:**

Every two weeks marks a shift in thematic for the class (Except for 3 April and optional class). Please write a short 2-3 page reflection on the previous two weeks in which you consider the salient issues for you from the readings. Please show a close reading of selected texts (Due dates for reflections are noted in the syllabus). Please pre-circulate them so that we can read before class and so that our thoughts are shared and collectively archived. A final paper of 10 pages is due by 18 May after class ends (this is a hard deadline) on any theme, figure, film or text of your choice, either from the syllabus or someone left out of our consideration and for whom you would like to make a strong argument as speaking to an objective(s) of the course.

**30 January**

**The State of Discourse**

Bill McKibben 1989 *The End of Nature* “The End of Nature” 47- 91,

New York: Random House

Bruno Latour 1993 *We Have Never Been Modern* Chapter Two: “Constitution” 13-48, Cambridge: Harvard University Press

Donna J. Haraway 1991 *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature* Chapter Eight: “A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century” 149-181, New York: Routledge

**6 February**

**Grasping Nature**

Pierre Hardot 2006 *The Veil of Isis* Part Two: The Veil of Nature 17-38, Cambridge: Harvard University Press

Michel Foucault 1994 *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences* Chapters Five and Ten, “Classifying” and “The Human Sciences” 125-165, 344-386,

New York: Random House Inc.

Martin Heidegger 1977 *The Question Concerning Technology and Other Essays,* “The Age of the World Picture” 115-154, New York: Harper Books

**13 Feb I am out of town.** We have to Re-schedule

First reflection due by 12 Feb, 8pm.

**Nature’s Economy I**

Henry David Thoreau 1992 *Walden and Other Writings* “Economy” 3-75, New York: Random House

Stanley Cavell 1991 *The Senses of Walden* “Words” 3-35, Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Donald Worster 1994 *Nature’s Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas* “A Naturalist in Concord” 59-76, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

**20 February**

**Nature’s Economy II**

**(BOOK)** Karl Marx 1964 *The Economic & Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844* New York: International Publishers

John Bellamy Foster 2000 *Marx’s Ecology: Materialism and Nature* “The Metabolism of Nature and Society” 141-177, New York: Monthly Review Press

**27 February**

Second reflection due by 26 February, 8pm

**Culture, History and Environment I**

Johann Gottfried Von Herder 2002 *Philosophical Writings* Ed. Michael N. Forster “This Too a Philosophy of History for the Formation of Humanity (1774)” 272-358, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Martin Schutze 1922 “The Fundamental Ideas in Herder’s Thought, IV: Relation of the Theory of Environment to ‘Volksliteratur’ and the Conception of the ‘Volk’” *Modern Philology* 19(4): 361-382

**6 March**

**Culture, History and Environment II**

Friedrich Ratzel 2014 “Nature, Rise, and Spread of Civilization” in *The Anthropology of Climate Change* ed. Michael Dove, 107-114, West Sussex: Wiley Blackwell

**(BOOK)** Marcel Mauss 1979 *Seasonal Variations of the Eskimo: A Study in Social Morphology* London, Boston and Henley: Routledge & Kegal Paul

Franz Boas 1940 “The Limitation of the Comparative Method of Anthropology” in *Race, Language and Culture* 270-280New York: The Free Press

Franz Boas 1940 “The Aims of Ethnology” in *Race, Language and Culture* 626-638New York: The Free Press

Kroeber, Alfred 1947 Chapters I, II, XIII, XIV, XV, “Objectives,” “History of Concepts” “Relations of Environmental and Cultural Factors” “Agriculture” and “Cultural Intensity and Climax” 1-2, 3-7, 205-217, 218-221, 222-228 *Cultural and Natural Areas of Native North* America Berkeley: University of California Press

**13 March**

Third reflection due by 12 March, 8pm

**The Turn to Savages Part I**

**(BOOK)** Jean-Jacques Rousseau 1992 *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* (Hackett Classics) Indiana: Hackeet Publishing Company

Claude Levi-Strauss 1967 *Structural Anthropology Volume II*  Chapter 11, “Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Founder of the Sciences of Man” 33-43 Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Claude Levi-Strauss 1973 *Tristes Tropiques* Chapters 20, 22, 23, 38 “A Native Community and its Life-Style” “Virtuous Savages” “The Living and the Dead” “A Little Glass of Rum”178-196, 215-229, 230-246, 383-393 New York: Penguin Books

**27 March**

**The Turn to Savages Part I**

**(BOOK)** Eduardo Viveiros de Castro 2014 *Cannibal Metaphysics* Minneapolis: Univocal

**(BOOK)** Phillipe Descola *The Ecology of Others* 2013 Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press

**3 April**

Fourth reflection due by 2 April, 8pm

**Totemism or Nature in Human Thought**

**(BOOK)** Immanuel Kant 2009 *Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals* Translated by H.J. Paton New York: Harper Books

Stanley Cavell 2004 *Cities of Words: Pedagogical Letters on Register of the Moral Life* Chapter 7 “Kant” 119-144 Cambridge: Harvard University Press

Emile Durkheim 2001 *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* Introduction, Book I Chapter 4, 3-21; Book II, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,7, 87-182, Conclusion 310-343 Oxford: Oxford University Press

**10 April**

**Seeking Interconnectedness: Energy, Evolution, Ecology**

Leslie White 1943 “Energy and the Evolution of Culture” *American Anthropologist* 45(3): 335-356

Julian Steward 1955 *Theory of Culture Change: The Methodology of Multilinear Evolution* Introduction, Chapters 2, 9 “The Concept and Method of Cultural Ecology” “Lineage to Clan: Ecological Aspects of Southwestern Society” 1-8, 30-42, 151-172 Chicago: University of Illinois

**(BOOK)** Clifford Geertz 1974 *Agricultural Involution: The Process of Ecological Change in Indonesia* Berkeley: University of California Press

Roy A. Rappaport 1967 “Ritual Regulation of Environmental Relations among a New Guinea People” *Ethnology* 6(1): 17-30

**17 April**

Fifth reflection due 16 April, 8pm

**Seeking Interconnectedness: Umwelt, Biosemiosis, Milieu**

Jacob von Uexkull 1985 “Umwelt and Inner World of Animals” *Foundations of Comparative Ethology* ed. G.M. Burghardt 222-245 New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold

Gregory Bateson 2000 *Steps to an Ecology of Mind* Part V “Epistemology and Ecology” 405-473 Chicago: University of Chicago Press

George Canguilheim “The Living and its Milieu” *Knowledge of Life* New York: Fordham University Press

**24 April**

**Break with Evolution**

E.O. Wilson 2000 *Sociobiology: The Great Synthesis* Chapters 1, 2, 27 “The Morality of the Gene” “Elementary Concepts of Sociobiology” “Man: From Sociobiology to Sociology” 3-31, 547-576 Cambridge, Harvard University Press

 **(BOOK)** Marshall Sahlins 1976 *Culture and Practice Reason* Chicago: University of Chicago Press

Donna Haraway 1991 *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature* Chapter Three “The Biological Enterprise: Sex, Mind, and Profit from Human Engineering to Sociobiology” 42-68 New York: Routledge

**May 1**

Sixth reflection due 30 April, 8pm

**New Forays Through Life**

Tim Ingold 2010 *The Perception of the Environment: Essays in Livelihood, Dwelling and Skill* Chapter 1 “Culture, nature, environment: Steps to an ecology of life” 13-26 London: Routledge

**(BOOK)** Bhrigupati Singh 2015 *Poverty and the Quest for Life: Spiritual and Material Striving in Rural India* Chicago: University of Chicago Press

**Final Paper Due: 18 May, 8pm**

**Optional Class with Food and Drinks at My Place: Nature Re-approached**

**Date to be determined**

Friedich Schelling 2004 “The Unconditioned in Nature,” in *First Outline of a System of the Philosophy of Nature* 13-19 Albany, NY: State University of New York Press

**(BOOK)** Johann Wolfgang von Goethe 2009 *The Metamorphosis of Plants*  Cambridge: MIT Press

Andrew Brandel “Triste Romantik: Ruminations on an Ethnographic Encounter with Philosophy” in *Wording the World: Veena Das and Scenes of Inheritance* ed. Roma Chatterji 300-307 New York: Fordham University Press

Naveeda Khan n.d. *Towards a Romantic Anthropology: River Life and Climate Change in Bangladesh* (manuscript)