

LS 812: A Path Forward? Culture and Nature as Partners
Thursdays 6:30 pm to 9:20 pm – Online via Zoom
Instructor: Stephen Duguid

This seminar will focus on a close reading of five books by prominent women writers on the subject of how we might respond in a more effective manner to the increasing tension between the culture of modernity and the health of nature. To see how some prominent contemporary critics of the ‘modern’ respond to this issue we will read the following texts:

- Val Plumwood, *Environmental Culture: The Ecological Crisis of Reason* (Routledge, 2002)
- Carolyn Merchant, *Reinventing Eden – The Fate of Nature in Western Culture* (Routledge, 2003)
- Shierry Weber Nicholzen, *The Love of Nature and the End of the World – The Unspoken Dimensions of Environmental Concern* (MIT Press, 2003)
- Nancy Fraser, *Cannibal Capitalism – How Our System is Devouring Democracy, Care and the Planet – and What We Can Do About It* (Verso, 2023)
- Eileen Crist, *Abundant Earth: Toward an Ecological Civilization* (University of Chicago, 2019)

The seminar is offered via Zoom in the Fall 2024 semester. Each week some students will be assigned chapters in the readings in order to prepare a two-page summary along with a set of discussion questions for the class to consider. An essay will be required based on the course readings and selections of other sources drawn from the rich list of relevant readings cited by our authors.