Name of the course: Writing and the Environment of War
Lecturer name: Ron Ben-Tovim
Course number:
Office hours: Thursday 12-14 (Room 529).

Course Description
The course will survey the cultural and literary effect of the Great War on the English-speaking war-writing tradition through the concept of war as a climate or environment. Starting with the work of the so-called “Trench Poets,” and ending on the precipice of the Second World War, the course will discuss the ecological system of war, from trench to the home, while investigating the interplay between the shock of violence and the artistic shifts that have come to gain the name of “modernism.” Covering poetry and longer prose, the course will also investigate the role of gender and tradition in the undoing of the modern war-writing tradition and in the environment of war.

Key words: War literature, poetics, philosophy and literature, gender studies, environmental studies

Reading List
Virginia Woolf, To the Lighthouse (1927)
David Jones, In Parenthesis (1939)
H. D., Trilogy (1946)

Course requirements:
Attendance required: Yes
1. Three short written responses (each graded) 20%
2. Midterm assignment 30%
3. Final Exam 50%
31.10 Cold Front: The Environment of War.


21.11 To the Lighthouse

28.11 To the Lighthouse

5.12 To the Lighthouse; Tammy Clewell, “Consolation Refused: Virginia Woolf, The Great War, and Modernist Mourning.”

12.12 To the Lighthouse

19.12 Colonial Soldiers Writing

26.12 In Parenthesis

2.1 In Parenthesis; Vincent Sherry, “David Jones’ In Parenthesis: A New Measure.”

9.1 In Parenthesis

16.1 From a Distance: H.D. - The Walls Do Not Fall; Howard Nemerov - “The War in the Air”; S. H. S. Graham, “We Have a Secret. We are Alive’: H.D.’s Trilogy as a Response to War.”

23.1 Conclusion