### I. ASCRC General Education Form

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<th>Group</th>
<th>VI. Historical and Cultural Studies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dept/Program: Applied Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>Course #: CLS 167 H</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Title: Nature and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisite: WTS/ENEX 101</td>
<td>Credits: 3</td>
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### II. Endorsement/Approvals

Complete the form and obtain signatures before submitting to Faculty Senate Office.

| Instructor | Susann Bradford |
| Phone / Email | 243-7824<br>sue.bradford@mso.umt.edu |
| Program Chair | Cathy Corr |
| Dean | Barry Good |

### III. Description and purpose of the course:

General Education courses must be introductory and foundational. They must emphasize breadth, context, and connectedness; and relate course content to students’ future lives: See Preamble: [http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/gened/GEPreamble_final.htm](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/gened/GEPreamble_final.htm)

Nature and Society explores the relationship between ideas about nature and the development of political and social ideas, institutions, and practices in primarily western (Euro-American) society. The idea of nature is explored as a broad theme appearing in writings from different historical periods and cultural settings within the development of contemporary Western society. This provides the foundation for understanding the contemporary field of Environmental Studies.

Students will examine how distinct meanings of nature reflect different environmental and social conditions of various periods, how ideas have changed in the wake of modern scientific discoveries and technological development, and how this influences contemporary environmental thought. Texts by influential authors of major historical periods will be examined critically and comparatively by means of class discussions and writing assignments. Students are encouraged to make connections between ideas, writers, and thinkers of the past and contemporary environmental thought, explore their own ideas about nature, and contemplate their role in nature and society.

### IV. Criteria:

Briefly explain how this course meets the criteria for the group. See: [http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm)

1. This course requires students to express ideas and information to explain how historic events such as the scientific revolution and changing social, political, and environmental conditions have influenced the development of western ideas about nature, changed the relationship between society and nature, and contributed to the emergence of contemporary environmental thought. Students will develop these expressive skills both through participation in class discussions and through thematically focused writing assignments.
2. Students will evaluate the meaning and treatment of “nature” in primary texts from major periods in Western cultural development by examining these in relation to the cultural contexts, social conditions, technologies, political institutions, and historic events that characterize these periods.

3. Students will analyze human ideas about nature and related cultural practices within specific cultural and historical settings to understand how ideas and practices shape one another and how these have been influenced by changing social conditions and historic events.

4. This course will use an interdisciplinary, cultural studies approach to explore complex interactions between texts, ideas, social forms, and historic events. The cultural studies tradition draws on analytical techniques from a variety of disciplines, including literary criticism, ethnography, sociology, history, and the humanities. Students will examine the development of ideas using a combination of humanistic discourse, critical analyses of textual meanings, comparative analyses of social and cultural forms, and causal analyses of historical events. The course will is organized as a broad thematic study focused on the development of ideas about nature and human-nature interactions, and is structured by a chronological sequence of distinct historical periods. The course explores the foundations of Environmental Studies.

V. Student Learning Goals: Briefly explain how this course will meet the applicable learning goals. See: [http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm](http://www.umt.edu/facultysenate/ASCRCx/Adocuments/GE_Criteria5-1-08.htm)

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify distinct concepts of nature that correspond to major historical periods and cultural settings.
2. Describe and compare how contrasting ideas about nature are reflected in different human institutions or practices.
3. Recognize the importance of historical factors on contemporary environmental thought, particularly scientific advancements, technology, and changes in social organization.
4. Articulate personal perspectives on nature and human-nature interactions and relate these to historical ideas, thinkers, and events.
5. Participate in discourse and analysis to develop meanings and recognize diverse interpretations of texts and historical events.
6. Express an understanding of the complexity of ideas, both of nature and humanity’s roles with respect to nature, and how this can affect human decisions and lifestyle choices.

VII. Syllabus: Paste syllabus below or attach and send digital copy with form. The syllabus should clearly describe how the above criteria are satisfied. For assistance on syllabus preparation see: [http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bgd/syllabus.html](http://teaching.berkeley.edu/bgd/syllabus.html)

See attached.

*Please note: As an instructor of a general education course, you will be expected to provide sample assessment items and corresponding responses to the Assessment Advisory Committee.*