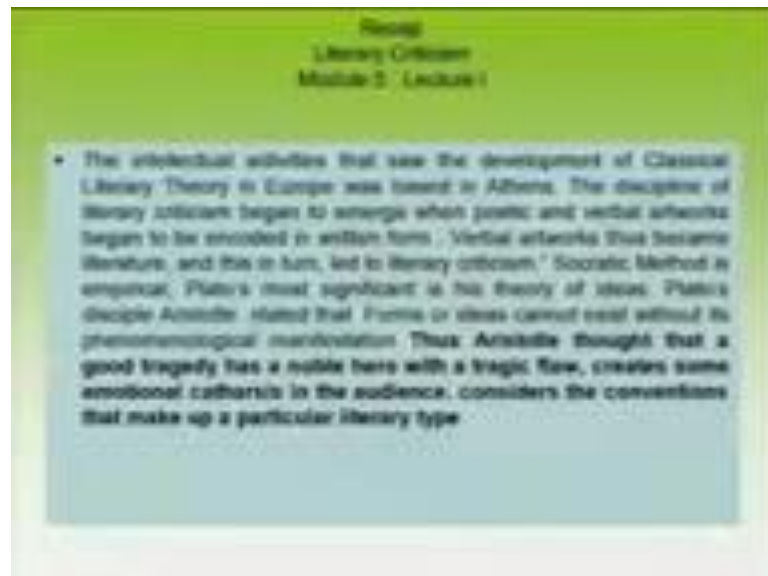


**English Language and Literature**  
**Prof. Krishna Barua**  
**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati**

**Module - 5**  
**Literary Criticism**  
**Lecture - 38**  
**Eco Criticism**

Hello and welcome back to NPTL national program on technology and enhance learning a joined venture of Indian institutes of technology and Indian institute of science. As you are aware, this program is by represent in the lecture series of language and literature and department of humanities and social sciences offers subjects, which are very significant for engineering students. I have been teaching literature at IIT Guwahati for the last 20 years and I hope you will like this lecture on literary criticism. We are presently in the module 5 of English language and literature title literary criticism and we are at lecture 7.

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Let us have a recap of what we have done in the previous lectures; in lecture 1 if you remember we had done the classical literature in Europe, which has based in 18 about Aristotle Plato and sub critics and how the discipline of literary criticism begin to emerge, when poetic and verbal art word art works begin to be encoded in written form. Verbal art word art works does became literature and this in turn into literary criticism; sub critic matter disemperical quite Platos most significant was his theory of ideas Platos

disciples Aristotle's stated that forms or ideas cannot exist without its phenomenological manifestation, therefore we came to learn about the way the literary criticism came into being not only that how to evaluate text how to evaluate and distinguish between Genres what is a tragic law in a tragedy and the conventions that make up a particular literary type.

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In lecture 2: we had done the liberal humanism which can be briefly defined as a grand narrative, which emphasizes upon the progress and liberation of humanity from a socialistic perspective. If you remember that, they believed in a unity or totality of the system of knowledge where during the 1970's this term came into vogue and it was valorized as an umbrella term to refer to a host of literary critics and commentators who were not politically radical and believed in an unchanging fixed condition of human nature.

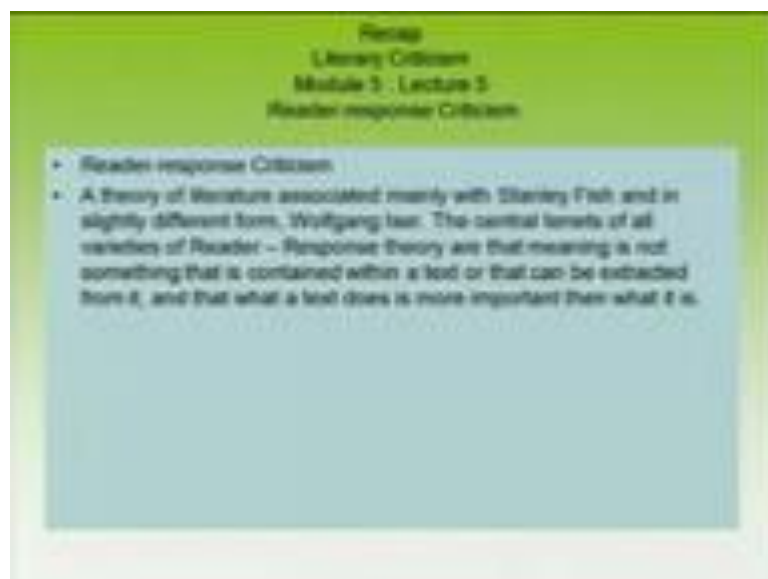
The liberal humanist critic maintains that great literature must possess the power to transcend the barrier of time and space, where when we were in lecture 3; we did Marxism and Marxist criticism champions the downtrodden of socio economic class critiquing texts that assume a classist society of economic elitism and hegemony which Gramsci had pointed out and championing text that support a common man. In this century, the Frankfurt schools attack on pop culture as a dehumanizing alienating prop for the capitalist state have been influential.

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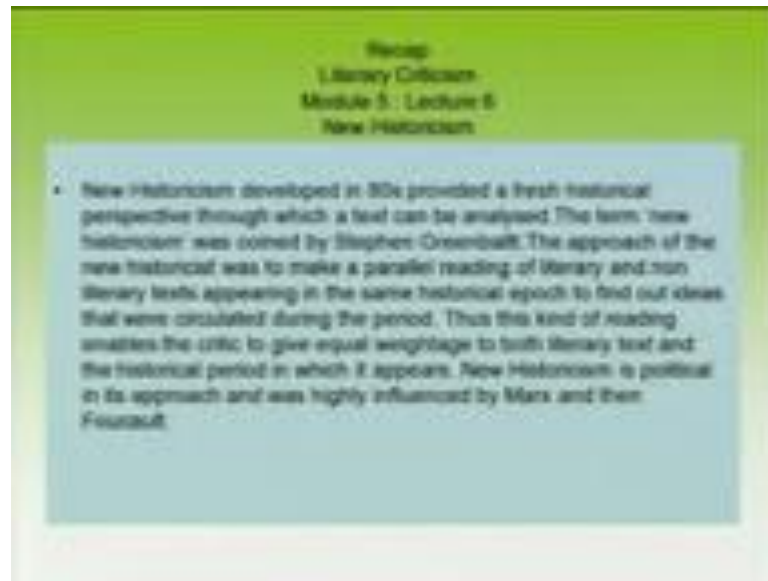
In lecture 4: we did feminism the feminist criticism we champions the downtrodden of the war of the sexes, critiquing patriarchal or Phallogocentric texts and championing neglected pro woman literary works like Marxism we have seen. Feminism quite often teams up with poststructuralist in its critique of the dominant male hegemony positing an innate female way of writing reading even thinking, which is essentially few points seeing sex or gender as socially conditioned and linguistically constructed as the constructivist...

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In lecture 5: we did reader response criticism which was a theory of literature associated mainly with Stanley fish and in slightly different form Wolfgang Iser and the central tenets of varieties of reader response theory which are many or that meaning is not something that is contained the emphasis upon meaning how its changes within a text or that can be extracted from it and that what a text is more important than what it is.

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In module 5 lecture 6; we did the last lecture we had done is was on new historicism and new historicism developed in 80s it was a movement which was movement which provide a the fresh historical perspective through which a text can be analyzed the term new historicism was coined by Stephen greenbelt. If you remember the approach of the new historicist was to make a parallel reading of literary and non literary texts; that means, the historical context also which has to surround a literary text appearing in the same historical to find out this that a circulate the period thus this kind of reading enables a critic to give equal weight age to both literary text and a historical period in which it appears new historicism is political in this approach naturally, because of the surrounding historical events and was highly influence by mark tendon Fucko well.

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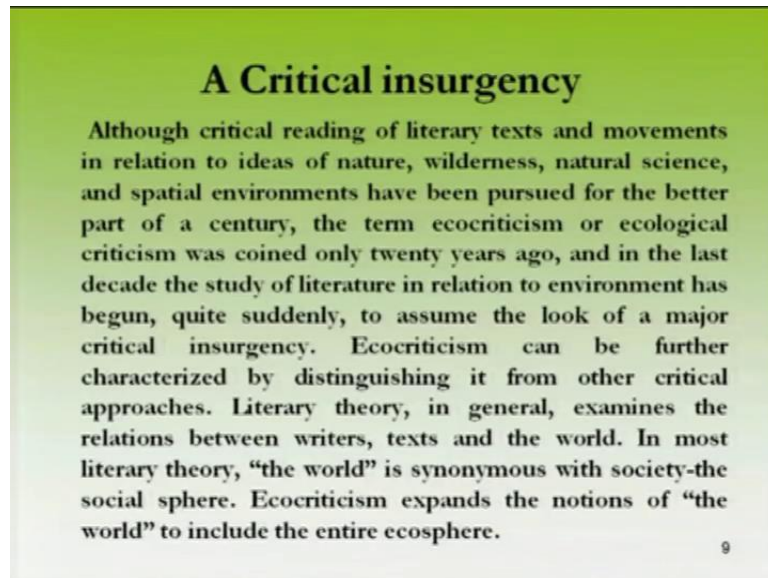


So, today we are in lecture 7 of module 5 of literary criticism and we are doing ecocriticism. Literary studies in our post modern age exist in a state of constant flux; one we are approaching. In these studies we find that it is in a dynamic state of flux in a period of rapid and sometimes disorienting change. The absence of sign of an environmental perspective in contemporary literary studies; this has been a concern for many. Why we have looked through the different angles at text and when we do literary criticism we have to remember literary criticism is a way of interpretation of text; how you read a text the different perspectives that you take in evaluating text or criticizing a text or being bringing about theoretical perspective at looking at a text, but when we look at the way that environmental perspectives has been neglected then it becomes a concern it becomes a question of concern.

So, this absence of sign of an environmental perspective in contemporary literary studies would seem to suggest that despite its revision its energies switches, which has been happening all around scholarship remains academic in the sense of colony to the point of being unaware of the outside world has complete absence even in the 80s. The absence of the perspective true environment looking at a text. While related humanities, disciplines like; history, philosophy law, sociology and religion had been green they have taken environmental turn. Since the 1970s literary studies have apparently remained uninterested by environmental concern even till 1970 and well social movements like the civil rights

and woman liberation movements of the 60's and 70s have transform literary studies it would appear that, the environmental movement of the same error has had a Little.

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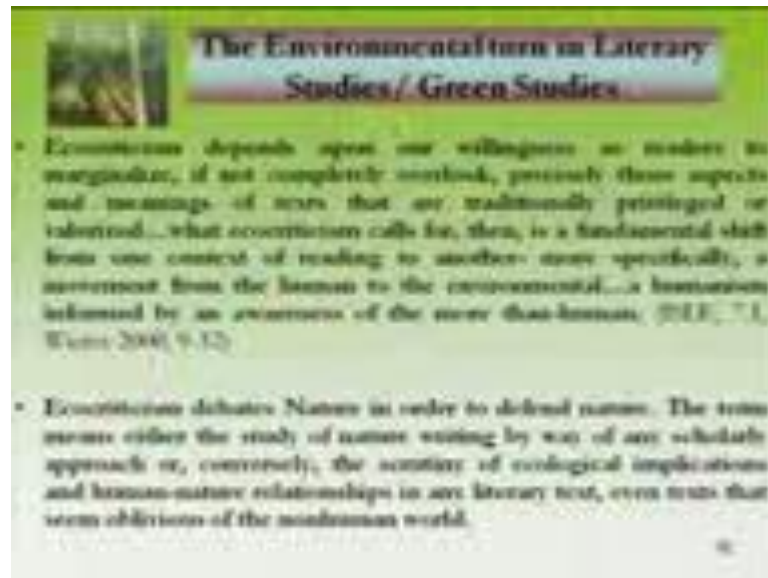


In fact all the critical reading of literary texts and movements in a relation to ideas of nature wilderness, natural science and spatial environments have been pursued for the better part of a century we have seen that they have been considered about nature about environment, but the term eco criticism or ecological criticism was coined only 20 years ago .

In the last decade the study of literature in relation to environment has begun quite suddenly to assume the look of a major critical insurgency. This way recent times only that we find 20 or that eco criticism has come to into Bain. Eco criticism can be further characterized by distinguishing it from other critical approaches; we have done different critical approaches till now and we have to see that, it is different from the way that this approach is being termed literary theory in general examines the relations between writers, texts and the world yes.

So; we have the text, we have the writer, we have the world. In most literary theory what is this world, the world is synonymous with society that is the social sphere eco criticism expands the notions of the world to include the entire ecosphere. I hope you have got a tried. So, this where it extends from the social sphere from the man made world to the entire eco sphere which is nature.

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Eco criticism depends upon our willingness as readers to marginalize; if not completely overlook precisely those aspects and meanings of texts that are traditionally privileged or valorized. What a eco criticism calls for then is a fundamental shift to have to understand the shift this Paradyne shift from 1 context of reading to another more specifically a movement from the human to the environment. A humanism informed by an awareness of the more than human this was what was written in isle. Eco criticism debates nature in order to define nature we have to find out this argument when nature is to define or to look at nature.

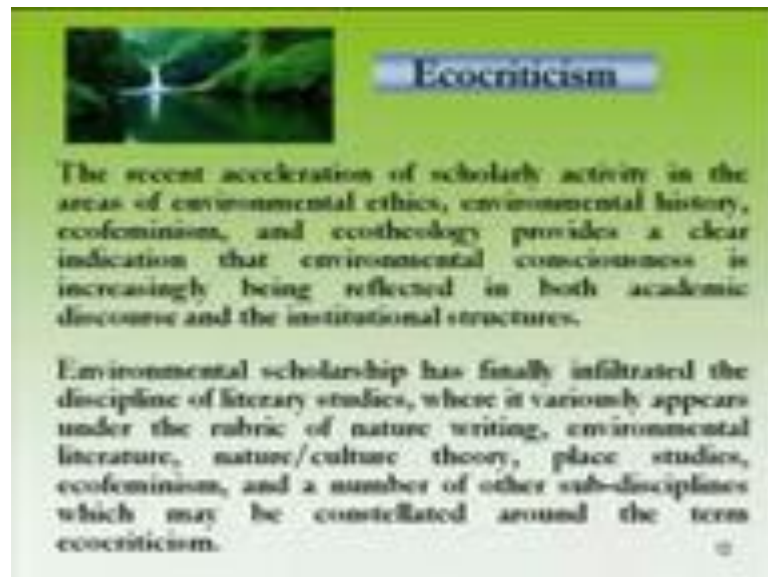
The term means either the steady of nature I think by way of in approach or conversely the of eco logical implications and human nature relationship; in any literary text even text that seem oblivious of the non human world. So, we can look into this aspect in different classical text even shake spheres campus can be seen from the eco critical perspective and then will find that nature the perspective is from the greening of the text as you say it. And it is from the non world at we have to evaluate or to interpret the text like any recently born thing eco criticism is experiencing tremendous growth and development in these early years of its existence.

In the short time since it first appeared as a movement some of the initial concerns that marked its inaugural moments have been answered the after the initial doubts or the misreading which had which eco criticism had to face, then we find that it has its own



steno given the veritable explosion of interest in the field Cheriyl Glotfeltys concern in 1996 with the traditional failure of literarily literary profession to address green issues for instance. Now, same something of an non issue. So, Glotfelty 1 of the key figures in this movement had some doubts in the beginning, but now it has become a non issue.

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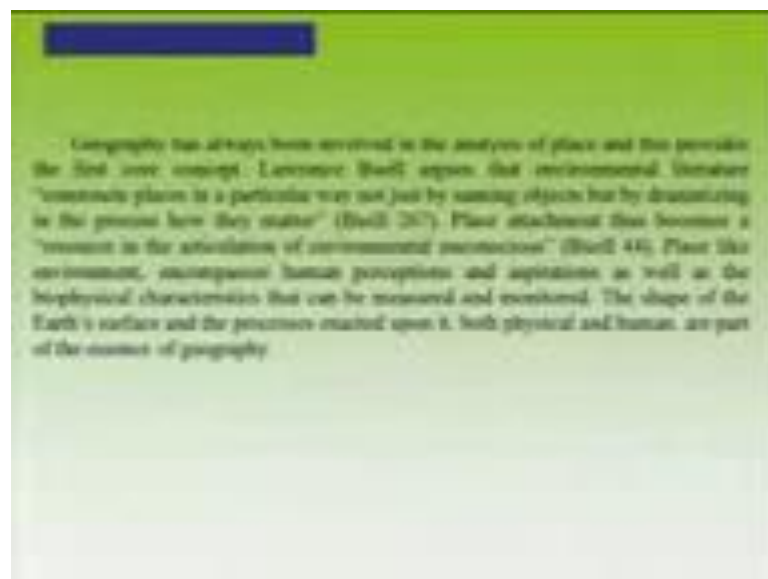
So, the this result exhilaration of scholarly activity in various of environmental ethics environmental history eco feminism and ecocriticism provides a clear indication that environmental consciousness, which is the sub conscious you call it or over conscious is increasingly being reflected in both academic discourse and the institutional structures environmental scholarship therefore, is has finally, infiltrated the discipline of literary studies where it variously appears under the rubric of nature writing which many had already written words word you take immerse and you take Taoro everyone of them even Thaidy environmental literature nature culture, theory place studies, eco feminism and a number of other sub disciplines which may be constellated around the term eco criticism.

Eco criticism therefore, calls for a paradigm shift what we had just done now from the human centric to the bio centric to the eco centric Just as feminist criticism examines language we had done in a previous lecture and literature from a gender conscious perspective and Marxist criticism brings an awareness of modes of production and economic class to its reading of texts eco criticism takes an earth centered approach to literary studies. So, this is an art centered approach and nature centered approach

ecological thinking about literature requires as to take non human world as seriously as previous modes of criticism have taken to the human society and culture.

So, this also calls for a understanding of inter disciplinary approaches of the biological as well as, the natural sciences, as well as from the stand point of geography and physical sciences Glen Love paraphrasing glotgelty's point argued in his contribution to the eco criticism reader, that race class and gender are words which we see and hear everywhere at our professional meetings and in our current publications, but the English profession has failed to respond in any significant way to the issue of the environment. That was before eco criticism was being introduced as a as a literarily criticism, but things are changing the English profession is responding glen love have recently noted that the study of literature and the environment and the practice of eco criticism has begun to assume an active place in the profession and as Patrick Murphy to write in 1999 that every department, in which ml a member's ml a modern language association members hold tenure ought to include an eco critic among its ranks.

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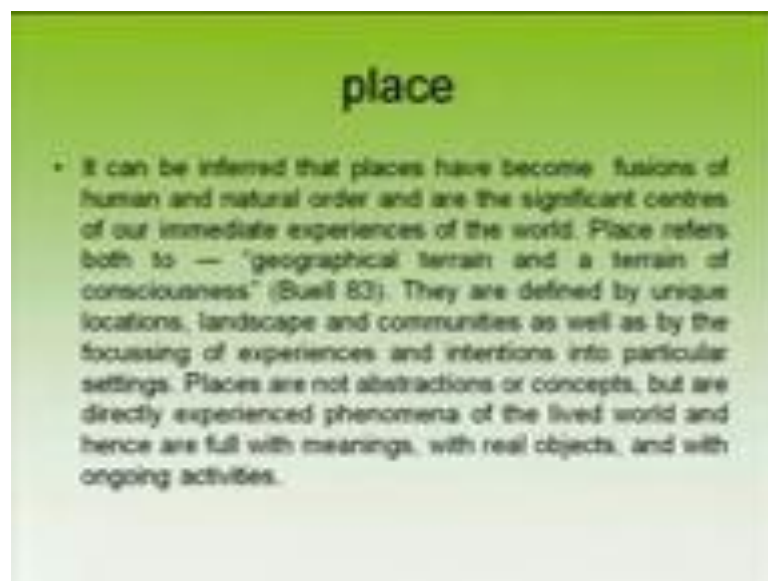


So, lets us look at all this different areas which have come into the understanding of literary text; geography if we look into has always being involve in analysis of place and this provides the first core concept eco criticism Lawrence Buell argues that environmental literature constructs places in a particular way not just by naming of the objects, but by dramatizing in the process how they matter place attachment thus

becomes a resource in the articulation of environmental unconscious let me remain this that literary theory here is the way that we are looking at the text, when we look at the literary theory of the evaluating or interpreting a text we are looking it from the eco critical expect perspective, but the text does not become a eco critical text the text is an environmental text.

So, I hope you have got the point clear. So, the literary theory or the perspective is the eco critical perspective, but the text does not become a eco critical text it becomes and remains an environmental text. If you look at from the eco critical perspective place like environment encompasses human perceptions and aspirations as well as the biophysical characteristics that can be measured and monitored the shape of the earth's surface and the processes enacted upon it both physical and human are part of the essence of geography.

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So, when we go into place that is which the part of the eco critical the main we see that it can be inferred that places have become fusions of human and natural order and are the significant centers of our immediate experiences of the world place refers therefore, both to geographical terrain and a terrain of consciousness. So, we have to get this clear it is not only the place he physical space, but it is also the terrain of consciousness all the associations which are connected with the landscape they are define by unique location landscape and communities as well as by the focusing of experiences and intentions into

particular setting. Places are not abstract actions or concepts and with ongoing activities what then is eco criticism simply put therefore, eco criticism is the study of the relationship between literature and the physical environment just a criticism examines language.

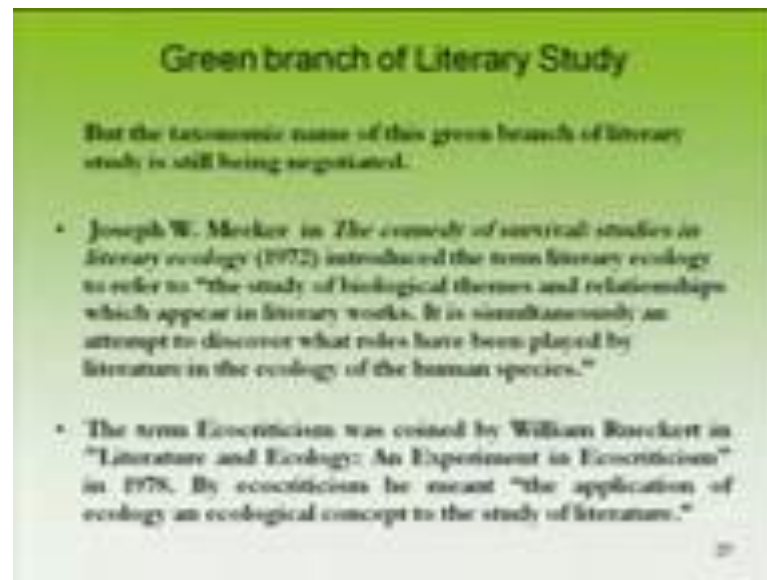
So, we find that this is way we have coming to the art centered approach to literary studies eco criticism therefore, the expense the notion of the world to include a entire. Ecosphere and how it plays a part in an immensely complex global system this in accordance with the 1<sup>st</sup> law of ecology where everything is connected to everything else.

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So, we see it is a complete inter dependence between 1 form from the biotic world to the entire ecosphere. Scholars like the term eco criticism over environment because analogous to the science of ecology, eco criticism studies relationships between things and the physical world while environmental suppose criticism it is anthropocentric and dualistic it is form the man. Eco in construct implies inter depended communities integrated systems and strong connections among constituent parts. I hope you have got the division clear; it is not environmental study the text may be environmental, but the study or the perspective or the criticism is eco criticism and not environmental criticism. The inter play among character species an eco systems in a literary text of an demands and inter disciplined approach to interpreted text as eco text.

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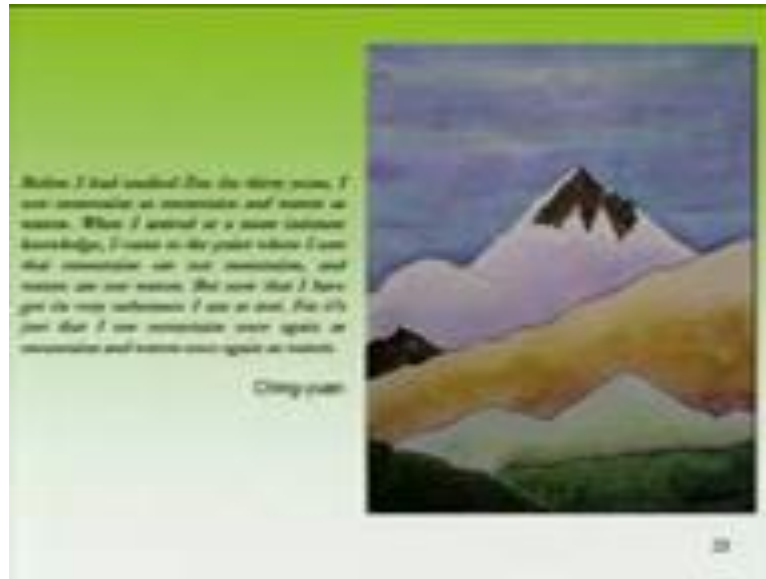


Now, the green branch of literary study we are coming to the greening of the human, but the taxonomic name of this green branch of literary study is still being negotiated. Joseph w meeker in the comedy of survival studies in literary ecology in 1972 has for back as 1972; introduce the term literary ecology to refer to the study of biological themes and relationship which appear in literary works it.

You study johns stain back the American writer Nobel you find that most of is text or based on the eco logical survival of human begins. It is simultaneously an attempt to discover what roles have been played by literature in the ecology of the human species. When this term 1st was it coin was coin by William Raker in literature ecology an experiment in eco criticism and essay which appeared in 1972; by eco criticism he meant the application of ecology on ecological concept to the study of literature individual studies appeared in a wide I had already refer that they have been.

Individual studies on nature and environment before and were categorized under a miscellany of the subject heading such as American studies, regionalism, pastoralist the frontier human ecology, science and literature nature in literature, landscape in literature in this science a sciatic inventing on a environmental approach to literature in isolation. Each was the single voice how link in the voilance, but there was not a discipline site which would categories all of them together I would like to hear form a James caller where he looks at nature beautifully.

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Before I had studied Zen for 30 years I saw mountains as mountains and waters as waters when I arrived at a more intimate knowledge I came to the point, where I saw that mountains are not mountains and waters are not waters, but know that I have got is very substance I am at rest for just that I see mountains once again as mountains and waters once again as waters what us. So, the entire elemental inters dependence of all the world well.

Let us now look into the echo criticism and its antecedence we must name Ralph Waldo Emerson's nature published in 1836 the 1<sup>st</sup> canonical work of U.S. literature to unfold a theory of nature with special reference to poetics. So, this is where theory the way that you interpret nature was being laid out we also have to mention Henry David Thoreau's Walden written almost some years later 1844; has been defined as a work of nature writing I would advise you to read both his books nature and Walden very interesting books and it will give you great insights into how your lens scope and nature is being analyzed. Then seen that, has been the subject are most literary analysis Henry David Thoreau can be considered as the father of echo criticism.

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- In the mid 80s as scholars began to undertake collaborative projects, the field of environmental literary studies was planted and in the early 90s it grew.
  - In 1989, Alicia Nitecki founded *the American Nature Writing News Letter*, whose purpose was to publish brief essays, book reviews, class room note, and information pertaining to the study of writing on nature and the environment.
  - In 1990, the University of Nevada, Reno, created the first academic position in Literature and the Environment.
- 25

Norman fastreous nature in American literature in 1923 inorgarated the new academic field in American literature in the mean 80s; if we come to the mid 80s as scholars began to undertake collaborative projects the field of environmental literacy studies was planted in the early 90s it grew. In 1981 89 Alicia nitecki founded the American nature writing newsletters whose purpose was to publish brief essays to the study of writing on nature and environment. In 1990 the University of Nevada Reno this is a very focal point of echo critical studies created the 1<sup>st</sup> academic position and literature and the environment.

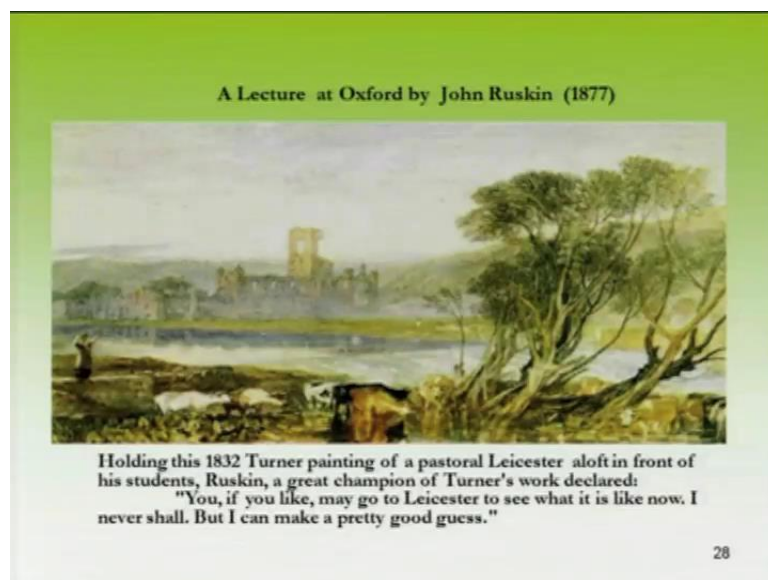
So, let us look at interpretation in the echo texts ecocritics are rediscovering early writers. Just now I had told you that we can reach shake sphere we can greet again different text, by the classical writers. and we can see it from the echo critical perspective. Re reading the classics from a green perspective and beginning to frame the subject in a theoretical way, one of the prime concerns of the ecocritics is to redirect human consciousness to a full consideration of its place in a threatened natural world.

Ecocritics need contact not just with literature has to be there it tell it is the base text you cannot just go and expand yourself into the natural sciences, but you are looking at literature or a text or a literary text from the perspective of the natural sciences, from the physical sciences from that environmental sciences etcetera. Ecocritics should tell story should you narrative as a constant or intermitted strategy for literary analysis to eliminate and appreciate a context of reading that is to embrace the literary text thus language that

somehow contributes to a lives out in the world. This is what is 1 of the great a pioneers of eco criticism has stated; eco criticism is therefore, is as someone said an unfortunate term server had said that because it suggests a new kind of critical theory and encompasses.

So, many disciplines the emerge and body of work that might be labeled ecocritical is united not by a theory, but by a focus which is the environment this ecocritical work draws on a variety of story; the theories such as feminist, Marxist post structuralist psychoanalytic and historicist Sarver.

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So, let us look at this painting this was a painting which had inspired lecture at oxford by John Ruskin in 1877 going back where folding this 1832 to turn up painting; painting by turner of a pastoral Leicester aloft in front of his students Ruskin a great champion of turners work declared. So, he looked at this painting and he said, you if he looked at this painting and he said you if he like may go to Leicester there to see what it is like now I never shall, but I can make a pretty good guess might be not in his pastoral landscape that what you can see at later it might be the rise of industrialization may destroyed is painting of this a pastoral seemed Leicester.

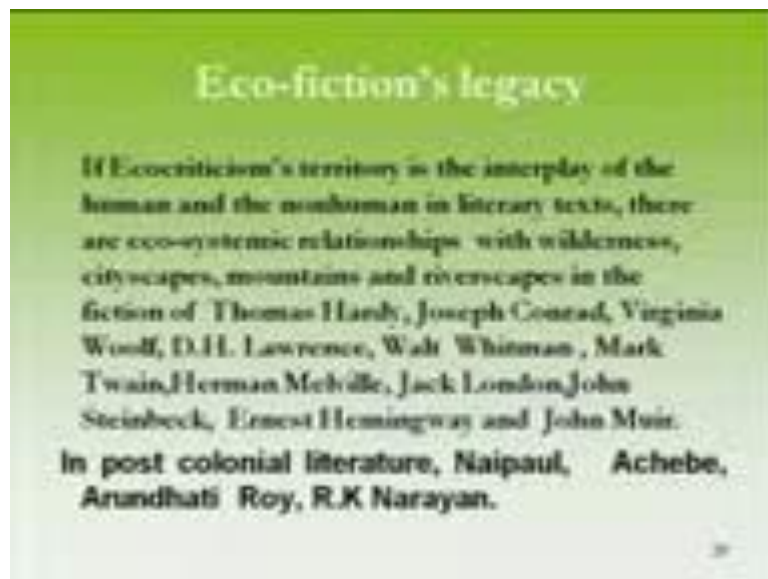
So, they had great outburst against modern times this lock lecture at oxford by John Ruskin he we that he pick up a paintbrush on the glass he dashed in a beautiful bridge over the original stepping stones and a cluster of ugly houses in a field, then he painted



the river an indigo color to signify pollution from nearby factories with a final flourish he added great clouds of smoke across the sky and announced the atmosphere is supplied thus. So, this was beautiful lecture by Ruskin how he wanted to show how a painting also could become the inspiration for the strangers.

In the ecocritics like a see therefore, if we go into that English eco critics believe that their legacy goes back to John Ruskin modern painters what he had written after their words was prefaced to lyrical ballads which was a document and how to write poetry and how what would be the teams of poetic expression the writings of words worth Coleridge of all this are the romantic John Clare Edward, carpenter William Morris helped inspire the establishment of an array of environmental societies. This was during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and you after remember then 19<sup>th</sup> century, the romantic aero of English literature in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century who is returned to England from the grainy backward of industrialization into a garden.

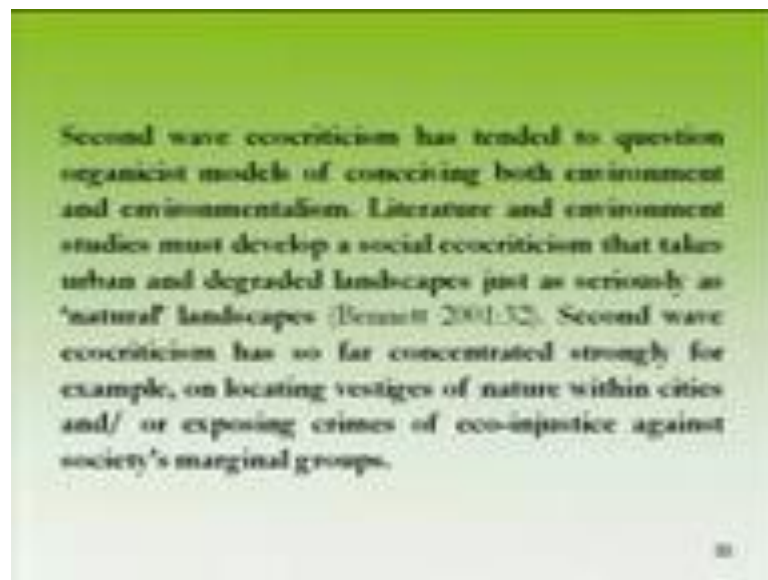
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So, while we are going into echo fictions legacy we see that this interplay of the human and interplay of the human and nonhuman in literary text there are eco systemic relations with wilderness cityscapes, mountains, rivers capes. In the fiction of Thomas hardy if you come to the Victorians we have the modern Joseph Conrad, we have Virginia Woolf, we have D.H. Lawrence Walt whit Whitman famous American poet mark twain Herman Melville all.

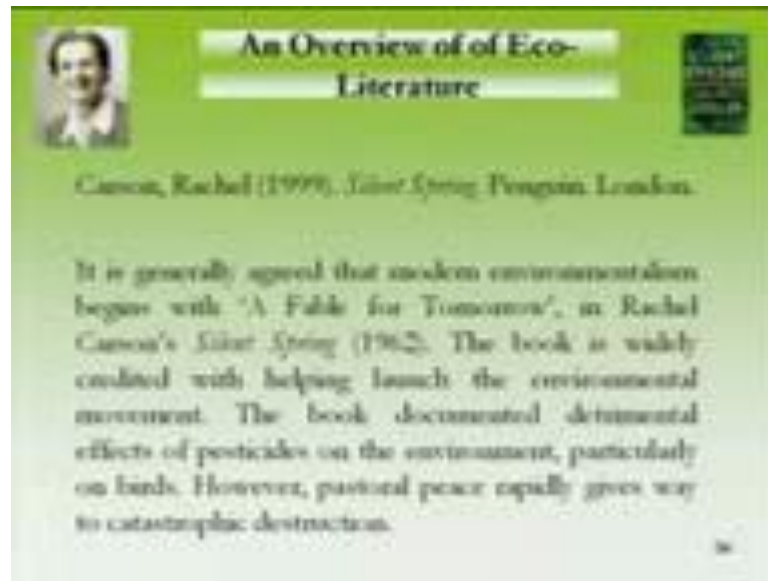
These are the American icons Jack London who was known for his search for essential nature and self. John Steinbeck we have just mentioned Ernest Hemingway the old man and the sea and John Mairé in post colonial literature we have here Naipaul, we have Chinua Achebe Nigerian writer, we have our very own Arundhati Roy we have R.K. Narayan who has brought about this relationships between man nature and the conflict that arises out of it the ways of criticism. Now, if we look into the eco criticism it had 2 ways of looking at the text for the 1st wave eco criticism environment effectively meant natural environment. Eco criticism was initially understood to be synchronous with the aims of earth care its goal was to contribute to the struggle to preserve the biotic community. In the process the eco critic might seek to redefine the concept of culture itself in organicist terms.

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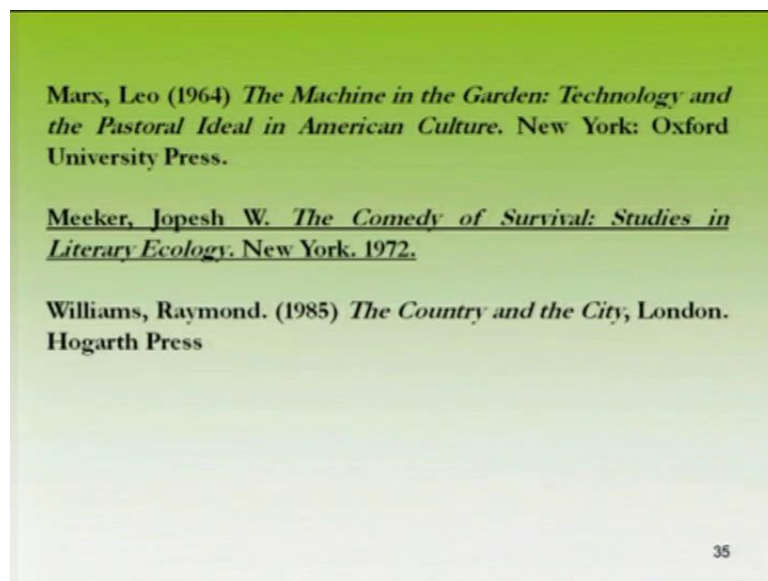


So, this was the 1st wave of eco criticism second wave criticism, of course expanded its domain and tended to question organicist models of conceiving both environment and environmentalism literature and environment studies must develop a social eco criticism that takes urban and degraded landscape just as seriously as natural landscapes; second wave eco criticism has so far concentrated strongly for example, on locating vestiges of nature within cities and or exposing crimes of eco injustice against society's marginal groups.

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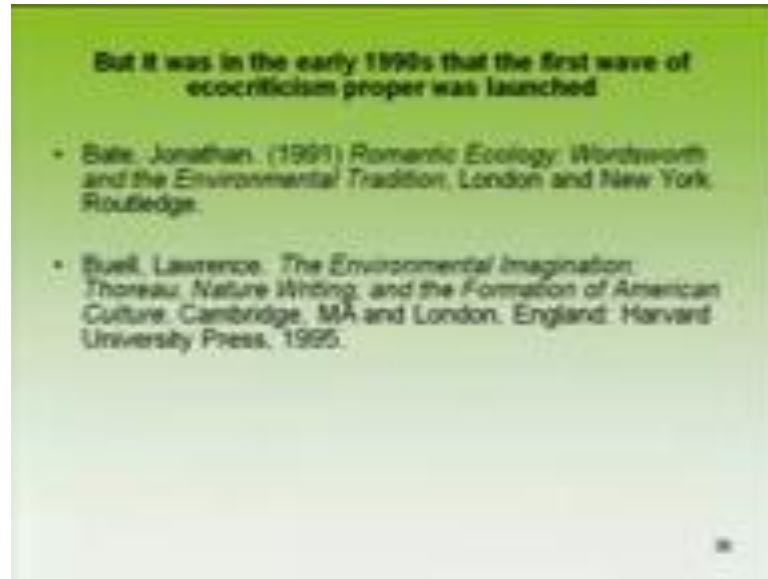


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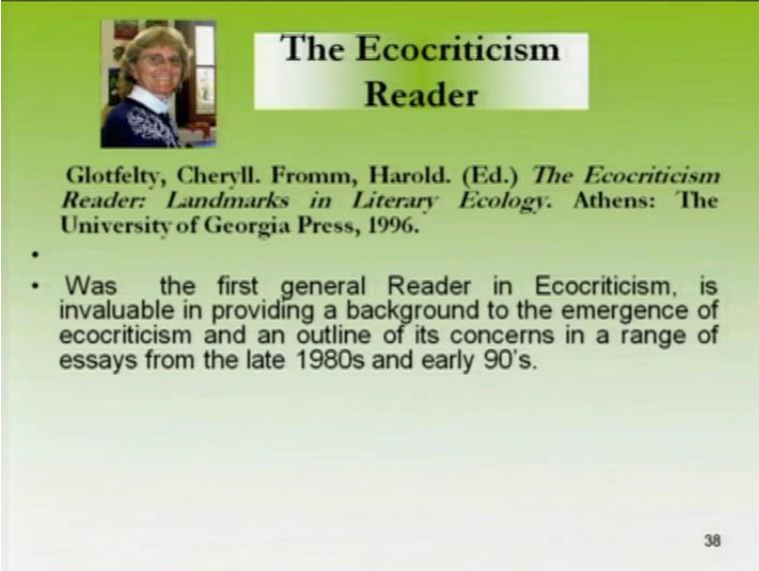
Let us look at the literature review overview of eco literature; we have to mention again Rachel Carson silent spring in 1999 agreed that modern environmentalism begins with a book and widely credited with helping launch the environmental movement we have Leo Marx the machine in the garden. This is the very seminal book technology and the pastoral ideal in American culture the Joseph w meeker the comedy of survival Raymond William; the country and the city in 1985, one of the most outstanding books on environmental study, but it was in the early 1990s that the 1st wave of eco criticism proper was launched.

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We have this main key players Jonathan Bate when he wrote *Romantic Ecology: Wordsworth and the Environmental Tradition*. We have Lawrence Buell the *Environmental Imagination, Thoreau Nature Writing, and the Formation of American Culture*, then Buell's approach; however, was to avoid the complexities of theory entirely it seems and to bridge the gap between what he does in fact acknowledge, as a theoretical problem. The relationship between text on the one hand and the world on the other; he calls this bridge that this relationship between the text and the world on the other he calls it the aesthetics of dual accountability, which will satisfy the mind and ethological facts. One of the ground works which was done was by Cheryl Glotfelty we had already mentioned her in the previous slides.

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**The Ecocriticism Reader**

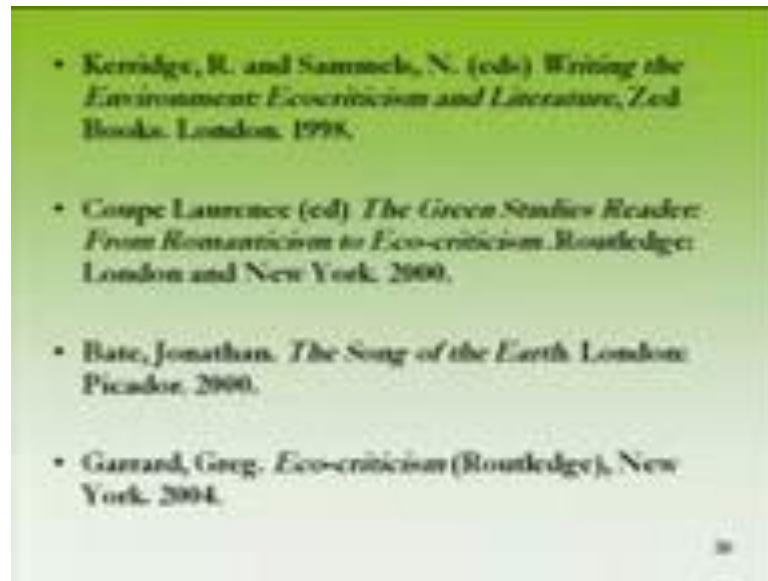
Glotfelty, Cheryl. Fromm, Harold. (Ed.) *The Ecocriticism Reader: Landmarks in Literary Ecology*. Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1996.

- Was the first general Reader in Ecocriticism, is invaluable in providing a background to the emergence of ecocriticism and an outline of its concerns in a range of essays from the late 1980s and early 90's.

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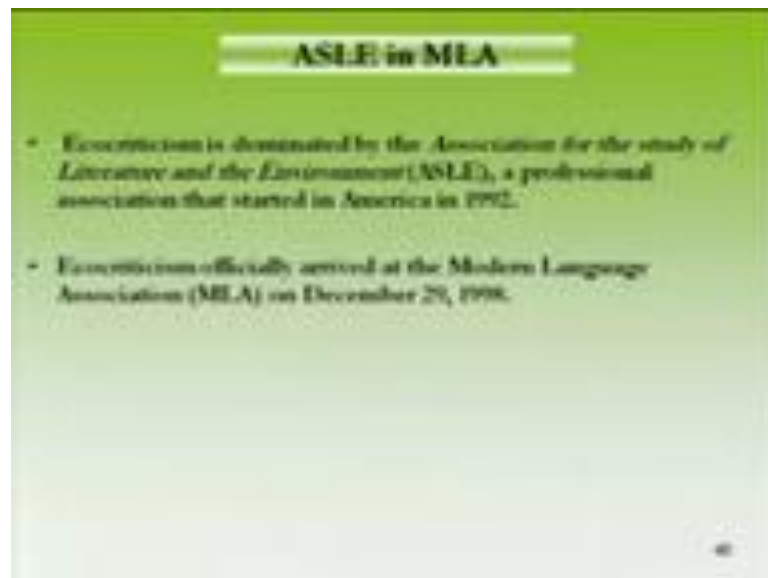
So, in her eco criticism reader 1 and marks in literary ecology which appeared in 1996 he was the 1st general reader in it was the book which was the 1st general reader in eco criticism and is invaluable in providing a background to the emergence of this area and an outline of its concerns in a range of essays from the late 1980s and the early 90s.

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We have to mention R. Kerridge N. Samuels writing of environment Laurence coupe then Jonathan bate Greg garrard eco criticism, which all appeared in the following years.

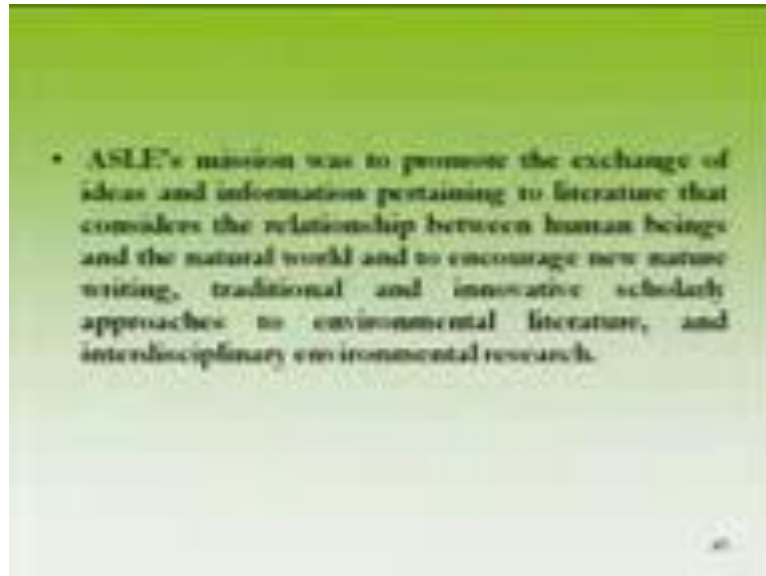
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We must also mention again ASLE in MLA, ASLE is the association for the study of literature and environment which is the professional association that started in America in 1992 and it had its very unique place in MLA modern language association the premiere association of all literary studies. Eco criticism officially arrived at the modern


language association conference on December 29 1998. So, it was given its formal acceptance.

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Asles's mission was to promote the exchange of ideas and information pertaining to literature that considers the relationship between human beings and the natural world and to encourage new nature writing traditional and innovative scholarly approaches to environmental literature interdisciplinary environmental research. It can be knowledge systems which exists and once idea of how 1 reacts to environment; which may be indifferent countries may be in different made in different parallel parables and also in alternate knowledge system. Isle is at the annual meeting of the western that is the journal which is being published by Asle was formed with Scott Slovic elected 1st president and Patrick Murphy established.

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**ISLE**

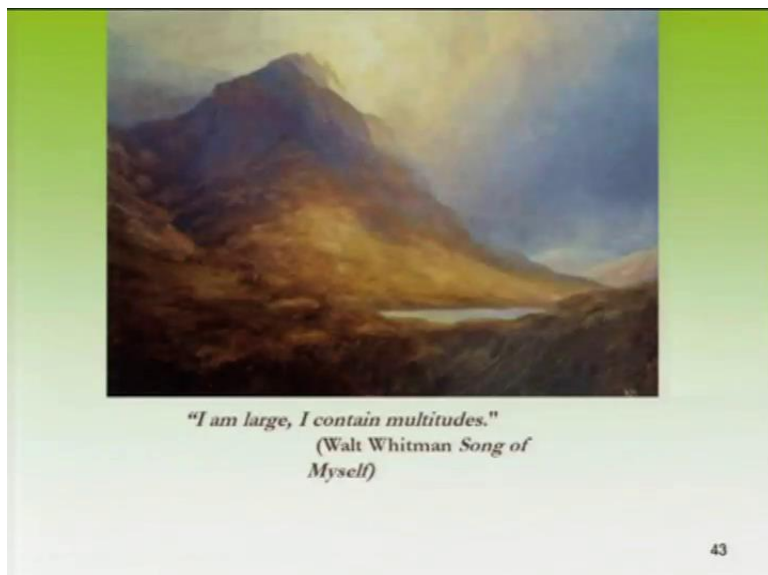
In 1992, at the annual meeting of the Western Literature Association, ASLE was formed with Scott Slovic elected first president.

In 1993 Patrick Murphy established a new journal, *ISLE: Interdisciplinary studies in Literature and Environment*, to provide:

*a forum for critical studies of the literary and performing arts proceeding from or addressing environmental considerations. These would include ecological theory, environmentalism, conceptions of nature and their depictions, the human/nature dichotomy and related concerns.*

The new journal isle interdisciplinary studies in literature and environment, if you look in then on life you will find that articles which are written on this are very rewarding. You can look into every sphere of environmental studies through these articles. So, this became a forum of critical studies of literary and performing arts proceeding from addressing environmental considerations.

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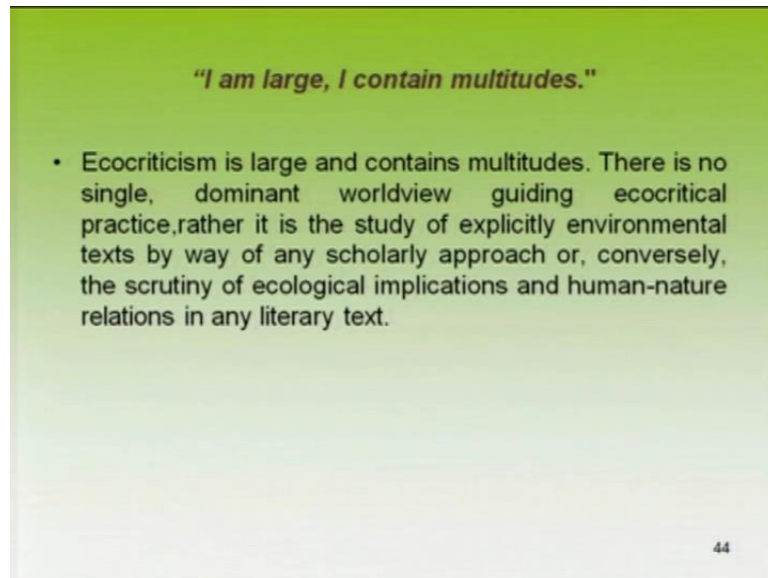


*"I am large, I contain multitudes."  
(Walt Whitman Song of Myself)*

43




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Let me quote here what Scott Slovic had also referred to Walt Whitman song of myself I am large I contain multitudes I am large, I contain multitude Walt Whitman's words. Eco criticism is large it contains multitudes this is what Scott Slovic had also mentioned in his definition of eco criticism. There is no single dominant worldview guiding eco critical practice, rather it is the study of explicitly environmental texts by way of any scholarly approach or conversely the scrutiny of ecological implications and human nature relations in any literary text; I hope this is clear enough for you, this is what Scott Slovic had referred to and when, he had referred to I am large I contain multitudes of Walt Whitman's poem

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**Place as a central object of ecocriticism**



- Some of the ecocritics aspire to make place a central object of critical concern. Literary critical interest of 'ancient lineage' (Lutwack vii) is receiving renewed interest. There have been texts that celebrate a particular locale or evoke a sense of place, especially through landscape or ecology.

45


Well; when we are looking at a eco criticism we are looking into place as a central object of criticism; make a central object because of critical literary critical interest of ancient lineage is receiving renewed interests every place therefore, we have to see his particular there are multiple kinds of places which overlap and blur into each other I am just taking 1 perspective from this eco critical theory. So, that you find it a clear.

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**Every place is particular**

There are multiple kinds of places which overlap and blur into each other, and places are always interconnected with the wider world in many ways. networks of relationships between places are altered through population expansion, changes in climate and other physical systems, changes in transportation and communication technologies.

Places are characterized by their physical and human properties. Their characteristics include climate, landforms, soils, hydrology, vegetation, and animal life. Their human characteristics include language, religion, political systems, economic systems, population distribution, and quality of life. Places change over time as both physical and human processes operate to modify Earth's surface.



46

How we are proceeding; when we look at place if we see it from place then places are characterized by the physical and human properties. The characteristic include not only

climate landforms soils hydrology recitation and animal life and the human characteristic include language, religion, which also influences place political systems, economic systems, population, distribution and quality of life which was the environmental unconscious which we had already referred to places seeing over time as both physical and human processes operate to modify art surface the term.

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Therefore, place does not necessarily have the same implications or meanings in the different disciplines it is generally agreed that the study of geography has at its core understanding of place; however, what they do not achieve is a deep holistic appreciation of place as it has currently understood in geographical thinking other terms that cross pollinate through place are when we are looking it from the perspective from the domain of place let us see what are the other things which go into the understanding of place in a text. There is home, there is dwelling, there is milieu, territory, regions, states, cities neighborhood, rural areas, wilderness and inhabited areas and among all space.

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So, landscape we will have to see as senses cape landscape can be seen only through the eye; place has a physical form that is landscape. Landscape is often understood as a panoramic view or a scenery landscape is always a kind of senses cape Edward s Casey points out, the fact that unlike places landscapes are seldom names. What makes the experience of place different from that of landscape is the concept of time and the act of memory associated with the former landscape and place can undergo significant changes, but the place stays consistence not place body and landscape are the boundaries of place body is the inner boundary and landscape is the outer 1.

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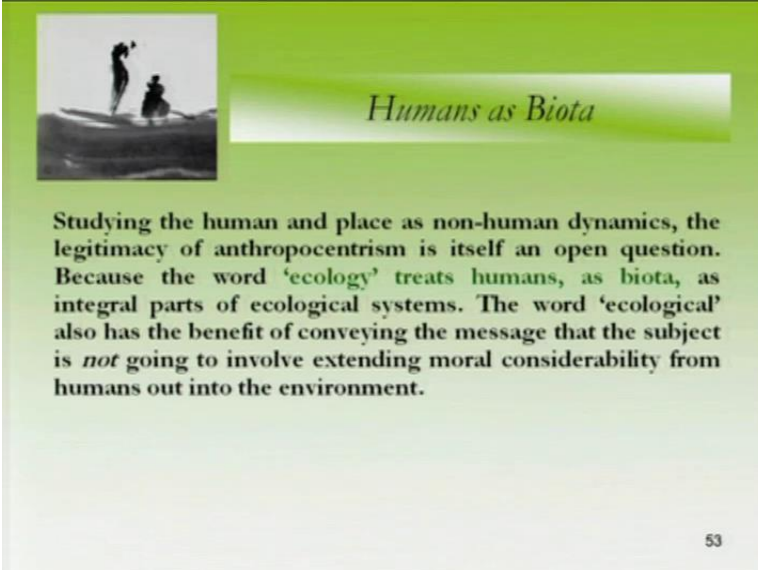
Place is what takes place between body and landscape well which place has often been conceptualized as some kind of definable bounded space geographers have been keen to show how the spatial characteristic of place are highly nuanced. A place is a socially meaningful and identifiable space to which a historical dimension is attributed space is on the other hand here not merely as place but, the place inhabited and animated by network of social relations and practices.

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So; this is quite the definition is quite clear in this sense, the focus is not on space as a physical entity with quantitative properties, but on topological space that draws attention to its qualitative properties. So, it is the qualitative not the quantitative properties which makes it more of a discipline, its constitutive elements which are its connection its convergences, its continuities, its discontinuities, which incorporates the dimensions of time of change and history.

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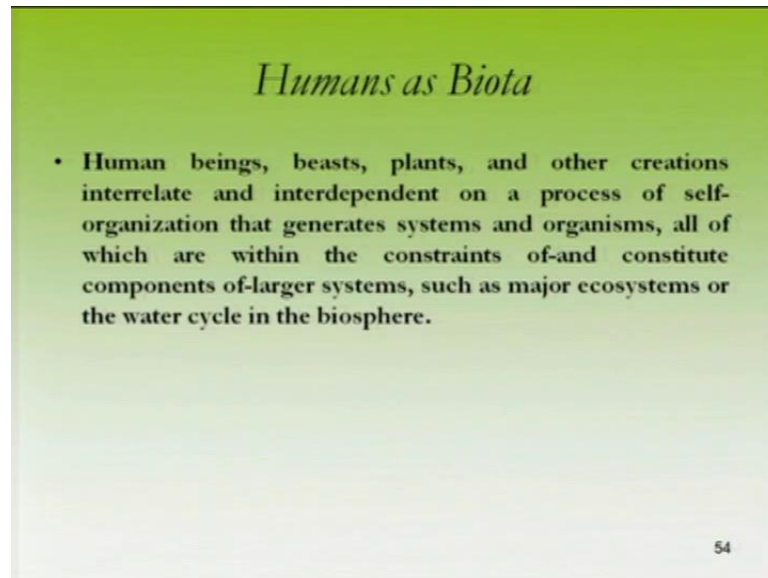
*Humans as Biota*

Studying the human and place as non-human dynamics, the legitimacy of anthropocentrism is itself an open question. Because the word 'ecology' treats humans, as biota, as integral parts of ecological systems. The word 'ecological' also has the benefit of conveying the message that the subject is *not* going to involve extending moral considerability from humans out into the environment.

53

This is very interesting now how to we see humans we are looking us not as a part of an observer looking at the text, but as the part of the ecological atmosphere studying the human and place as non human dynamics the legitimacy of anthropocentrism is itself an open question because the word ecology treats humans as biota as integral parts of ecological systems. So, you are a part of the biota a person or a human being is a part of the ecological system it is not apart from the ecological system. The word ecological also has the benefit of conveying the message that the subject is not going to involve extending moral consider ability from humans out into the environment.

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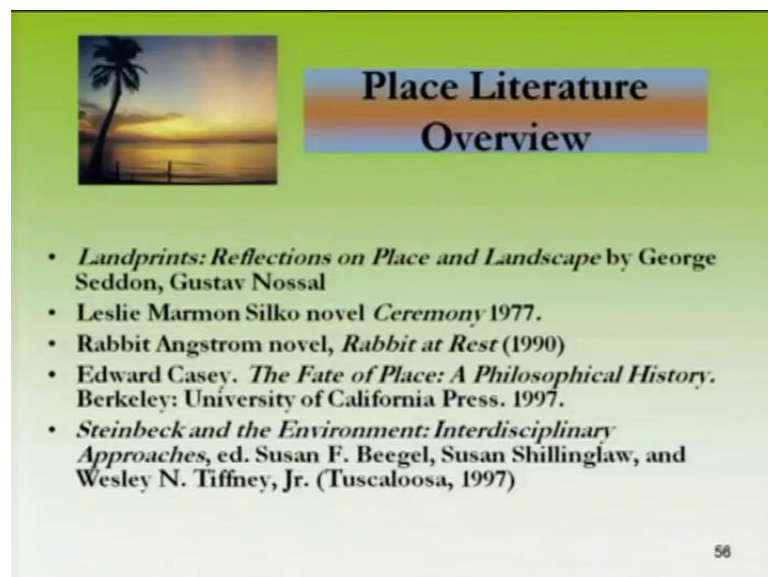
*Humans as Biota*

- Human beings, beasts, plants, and other creations interrelate and interdependent on a process of self-organization that generates systems and organisms, all of which are within the constraints of-and constitute components of-larger systems, such as major ecosystems or the water cycle in the biosphere.

54

So, therefore, human beings beast plants all fall in the same category and other creation interrelate and interdependent on a process of self organization that generate systems and organisms all of which are within the constraints of and constitute components of larger systems such as major ecosystems or the water cycle in the biosphere. If you read Stenberg's novel you will find that he was influenced by marine biology.

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**Place Literature  
Overview**

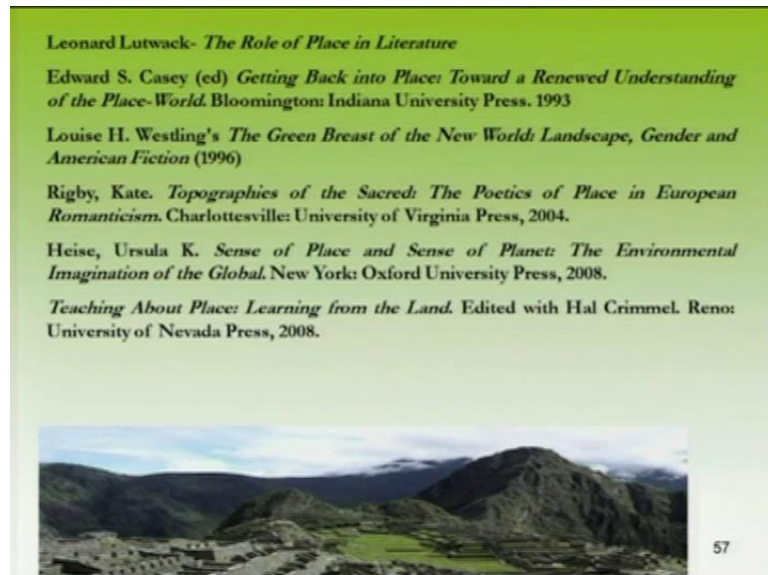
- *Landprints: Reflections on Place and Landscape* by George Seddon, Gustav Nossal
- Leslie Marmon Silko novel *Ceremony* 1977.
- Rabbit Angstrom novel, *Rabbit at Rest* (1990)
- Edward Casey. *The Fate of Place: A Philosophical History*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1997.
- *Steinbeck and the Environment: Interdisciplinary Approaches*, ed. Susan F. Beegel, Susan Shillinglaw, and Wesley N. Tiffney, Jr. (Tuscaloosa, 1997)

56

When he looked into the way that man tried to survive in the entire struggle for existence it was very much related to the way that, species and animal life survived on the in the

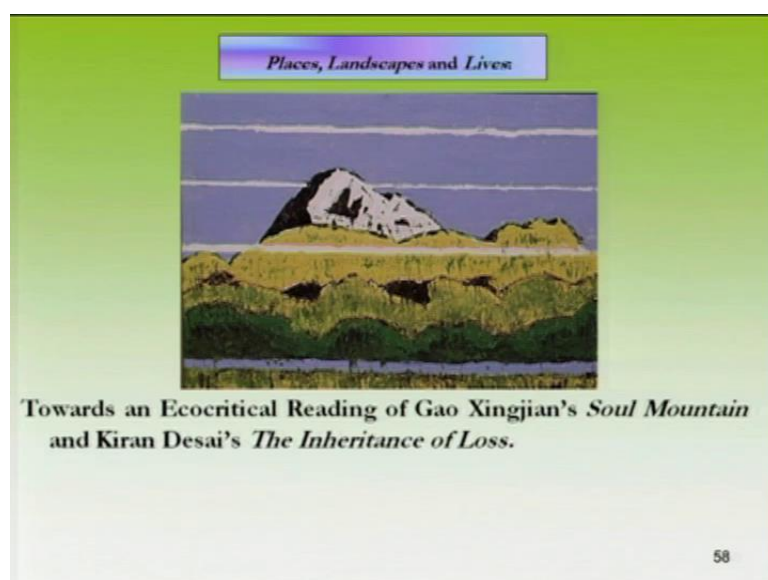
marine world. If we look at place literature review overview we have always to refer to Edward Casey the fate of place and Steinbeck as I had told you.

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So, many people had written about place, we have a very new book which had come out not very new very recent Kate Rigby's topographies of the sacred.

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The poetics of place in European romanticism beautiful book were placed is the commission, in factor for the inspiration of all the poets; especially in the romantic



period well. So, let us now give you 2 examples; how to apply to cocritical reading to a text, let us look at 1 Chinese writer soul mountain and Indian writer Kiran decay's the inheritance of loss in seeing how this text can be seen from the eco critical perspective.

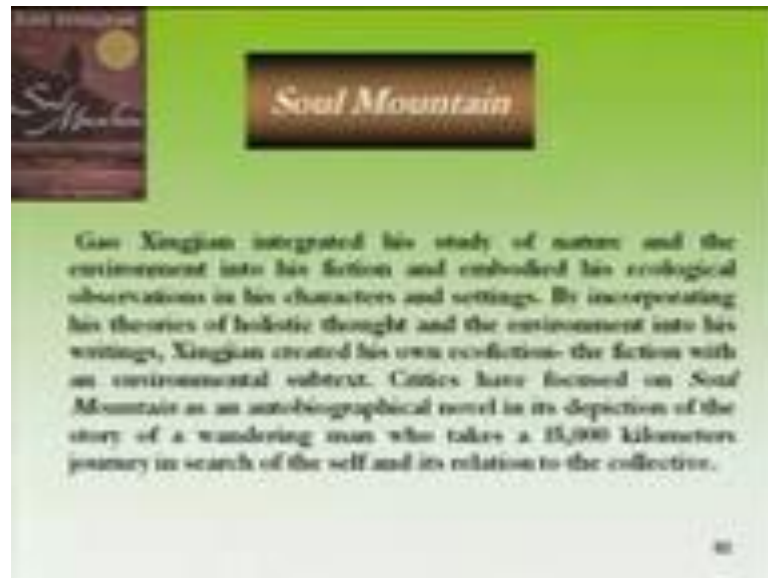
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This 2 Asian laureates Gao Xingjian he was the Nobel laureate and how he had gone to in soul mountain, it is a record of his introspective journey in the early 80s into the remote mountains and ancient forests of Sichuan in southwest Asia. While Kiran Desai which many of you may be familiar with her booker prize novel inheritance of loss is a story set in the mid 1980s and a especially in Kalimpong a Himalayan town by the foot of mount Kanchenjunga and also in network city.

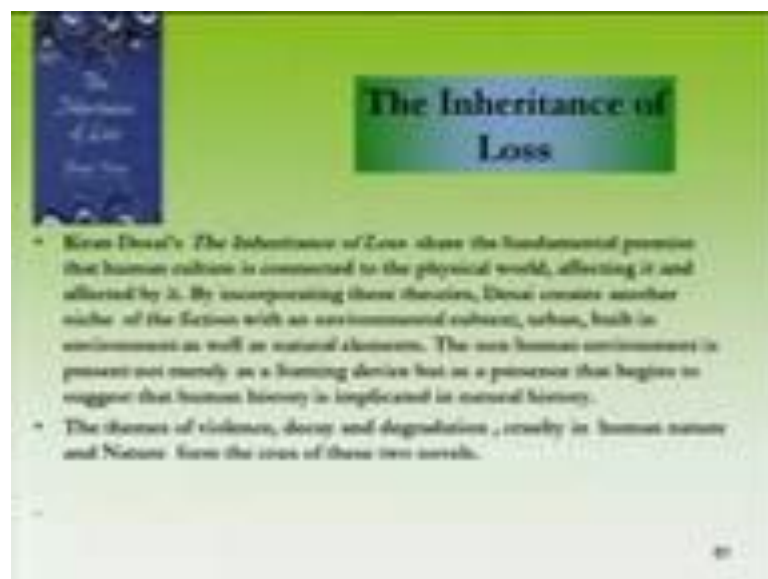
So, the rural and the urban are being put side by side and both in different cultural zones soul mountain, when we look into this book we find that there is different sort of an integration of nature natural resources as well as natural landscape in the understanding of the cell.

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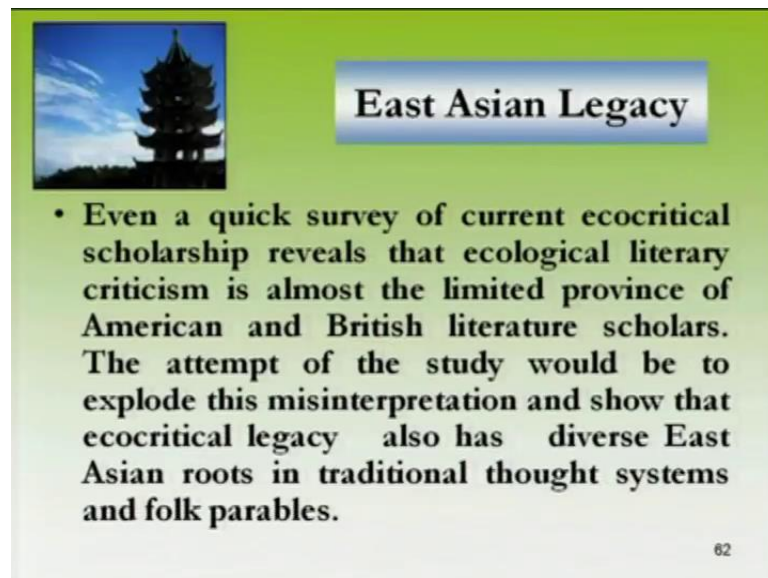
By incorporating his theories of holistic an environment into his writing Xingjian created his own eco fiction the fiction with an environmental subtext this is very interesting, because now you can go into the different knowledge systems of the Chinese the dowries systems. The different Chinese wisdoms which goes into the making of the text a critics have focused on soul mountain as an autobiographical novel, but it is mostly a depiction of the story of a wandering man who takes 15000 kilometers journey in search of the self and its relation to the collective.

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When we look at the inheritance of loss we find that human culture is connected to the physical world affecting it affected by it we find that characters almost take on the biological or almost physical representatives of the animal world and the non human environment is present not merely as a framing device in her novel, but as a presence that begins to suggest that human history is implicated in natural history. The themes of violence decay degradation cruelty in human nature and nature form the crux of these 2 novels, what we are trying to see in this 2 novels is that even though eco criticism is a very much an American. It has come out as a source from American scholars we are trying to show that, it has also and his Asian legacy even a quick survey of current eco critical scholarship reveals.

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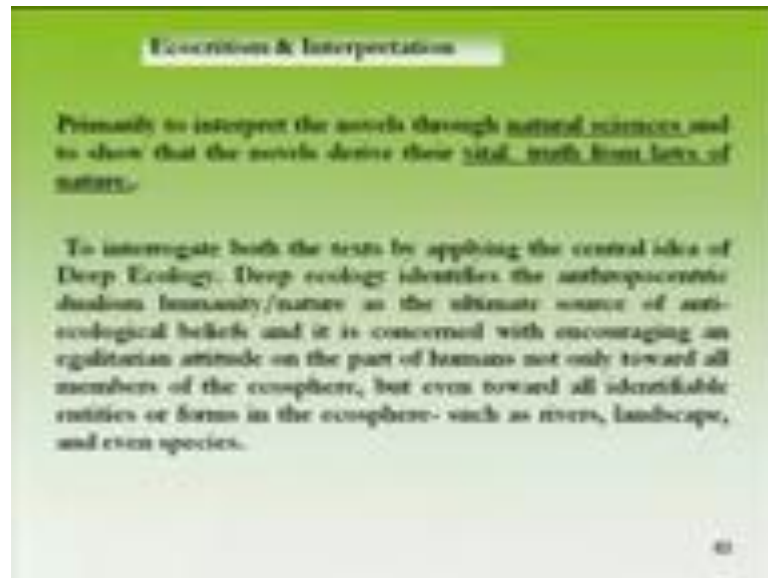
**East Asian Legacy**

- **Even a quick survey of current ecocritical scholarship reveals that ecological literary criticism is almost the limited province of American and British literature scholars. The attempt of the study would be to explode this misinterpretation and show that ecocritical legacy also has diverse East Asian roots in traditional thought systems and folk parables.**

62

So, that ecological literary criticism is almost the limited province of American and British literature scholars the attempt of the study would be to explode this misinterpretation and show that eco critical legacy also has diverse East Asian roots in traditional thought systems. And folk parables if you look into the Vedic systems of how nature is being looked how the human component the biotic world is being characterized if you read Raja Rao's the spond and the rope. You will find that, this exchange between the human and the natural this connection between what we have with each other is beautifully seen in the traditional knowledge systems.

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Primarily to interpret the novels through natural sciences and the vital truth from laws of nature the human ideal is to understand that, if we look at a soul mountain, we will find that dories is somehow influencing a very old knowledge system how you look at nature. Primarily to understand the Dao and act in harmony with it this view of nature can appropriately be called organic for various reason all things including rocks and water have vitality called in Chinese literally the breath. In Chinese they have this division between the yin and the yang which is the male and the female and we find that, this is the harmonious exchange between 2 forms, each phenomena has an individual nature and this consists not of some essence, but of a distinctive de which is the power and then the spirit and pattern of growth all phenomena are organically related and the world is 1 continuous field of qi with each phenomenon not a separate entitle.

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So, we see that he reflects in Soul Mountain, if you look it from the eco critical perspective then we found we find the soul mountain reflects all this aspects in the way that the writer has presented the landscape. In soul mountain Gao reflects daoist religious cosmology that seeks the coos transformation of the individual, as a celestial being who is fully translucent to the cosmic environment in which he or she is situated it is based on the doctrine yin yang yin, is the female yang is the male and according to Daoist tradition everything consist of this balance it is what constitutes reality this production of yin from yang and yang from yin occurs in a cyclical motion and is continuous there is no factor of life to which the activities.

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The slide features a title box at the top right with the text "from the egocentric to the ecocentric". To the left of the title is a small image showing a landscape with a road and fields. Below the title is a bullet point:

- Both the novels are set in the early 80's, against a similar terrain of urban and rural spaces under the aftermath of geo-political revolution. They focus is on the behavioral and experiential aspects of ecological inter relationships and serve as quasi autobiographical odysseys from the egocentric to the ecocentric.

Yin and Yang do not apply both the novels are set in the early 80s we will find it goes from the terrain of the urban to the rural and aftermath of geo political revolution. We can examine it from these different domains they focus on the behavioral and experiential aspects of ecological interrelationships.

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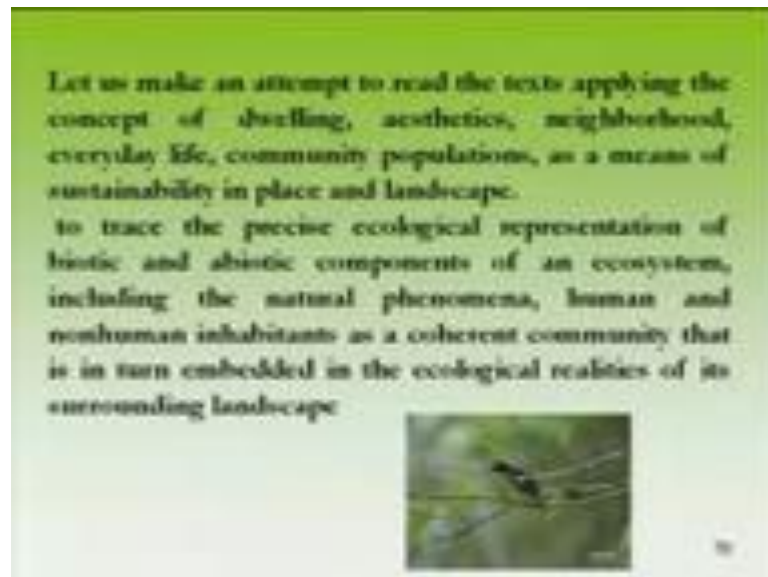
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They also give viable alternatives to thinking and reconstituting environmental ideas addresses the ecological strategy of constructing the selected novels as environmental texts well. So, let us take in 3 dimensions of place based study the role of place, of

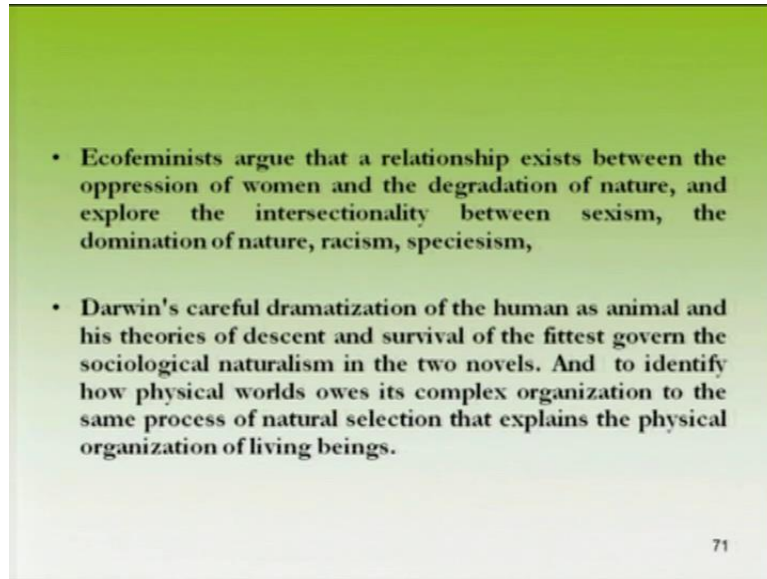
landscape, of lives grounded in an awareness of the physical location Geographical. Biologically as well as nature human relationship. If we look into the dwelling if we look into the aesthetics which are involved of nature, if we look into the neighborhood we find that they are all open areas which are ready for analyses.

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If we trace the precise ecological representation of biotic and a biotic components of an ecosystem how the plans have been represented, how the beings or the flora and fauna and everything has been shown. You find that it is an organic harmonious whole, may be sometimes not harmonious, but sometimes you find that ambiguity is also present contradictions are also present and this is a part of the ecological realities of his surrounding landscape. Let us now see, how eco criticism is closely linked with eco feminism; eco feminist argued that a relationship exists between operation of women and the degradation of nature and explore the intersectionality.

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So, between sexism the domination of nature racism and Specialism Darwin's careful dramatization of the human as animal and his theories of descent and survival of the fittest govern the sociological naturalism in the 2 novels. If you look into that I had mentioned you the way that they evolve from the animal or may be to the human from the from the human again going back what is to what is the animal. And to identify how physical worlds owes its complex organization to the same process of natural selection. So, let us see how the visual landscape of Soul Mountain was saved by the exotic nature in a state of uncontaminated pristine glory. He goes inner an inner towards the towards the forest, mountain history in river and wilderness and he finds sometimes how people are shooting bears and even pandas trees are being cut down and it is a little re response to the devastation, caused by the industrialization, caused by cultural revolution whatever and deforestation destruction of habitat.



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**Learning the Terrain: Representing Place and Geography.**

- The visual landscape of *Soul Mountain* was shaped by the exotic nature in a state of uncontaminated pristine glory—mountainous terrain, rivers, and wilderness. The depiction of the varied biodiversity witnessed in the natural forests has an almost sacramental value: it holds out the promise of a renewed authentic relation of humanity and the earth.
- On his wanderings into the nature reserves Gao witnesses how people are shooting bears and even pandas; trees are being cut down a hundred times faster than before. *Soul Mountain* is a literary response to the devastation of the flora and the fauna, deforestation, destruction of the habitats of the pandas, dialectic separation of humans from nature.

While the ecology in Kiran Desai's novel *The Himalayan Snow* we find seasons muddy monsoons the spring. The summer all contributes to the narrative's fullest significance and attempts to understand how the mountains around Kalimpong assumed their present form as well as what it might mean to identify with such a place on earth. So, when you read this novel not from the sociological point of view or from their philosophical or realistic point of view, from the eco critical perspective it takes on a different form altogether it is a image, which is very different and there is something which is connected with the mystique of the land.

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**Mystique of the Land: Landscape, Deep Ecology, Eco-ethics.**



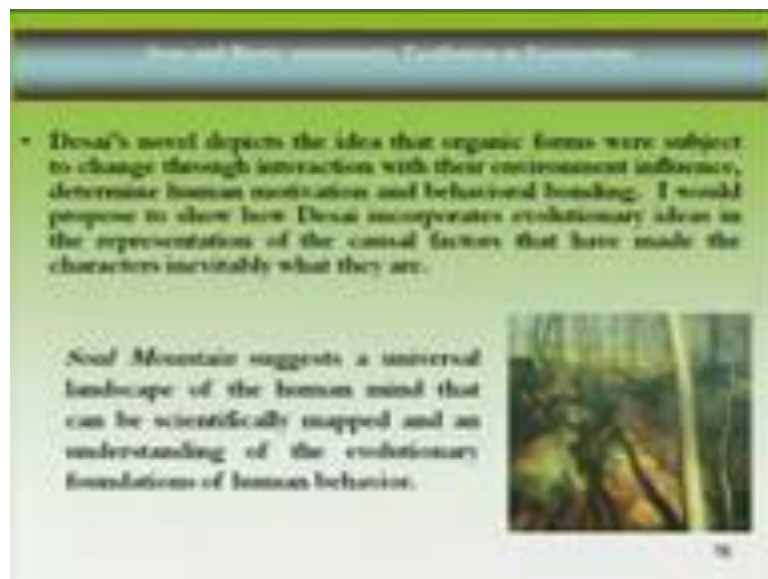
There is a sense throughout that Gao is searching for some mythical land he calls 'Soul Mountain'; running after things that are already vanishing and lost, a search for the self and its relation to the collective environment and landscape.

Questions of ecology, identity, gender, ethnicity, class, cosmopolitanism, multiculturalism, or globalization plays an important role in place based literary criticism.

74


This is something very closely connected with eco criticism; eco criticism has room for myths has room for deep knowledge system that, which is called the deep ecology there is a sense throughout that Gao is searching for some mythical land. He calls Soul Mountain, as we have seen the sense of place and embeddedness with ah something which had gone before all the people with their associations of history makes a lot of meaning to the land. Soul mountain abounds with therefore, ancient Chinese myths belief systems derived from eastern religions and philosophy such as Taoism as well.

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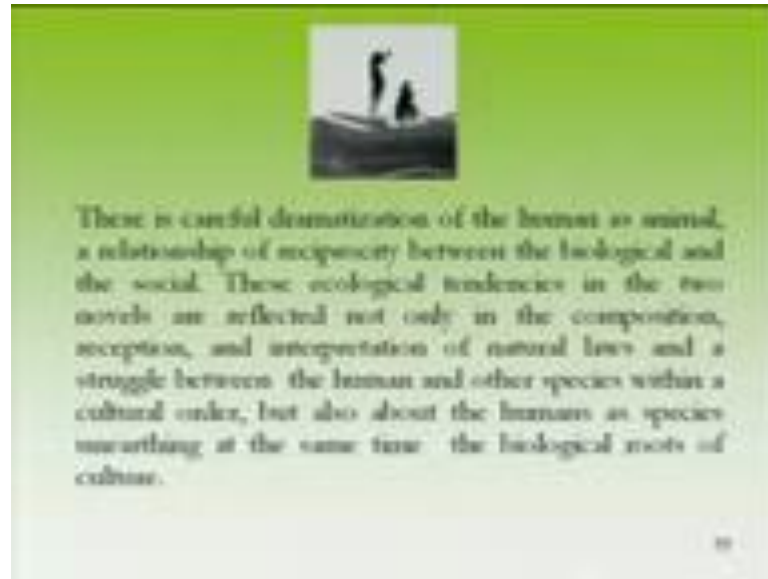
• Desai's novel depicts the idea that organic forms were subject to change through interaction with their environment influence, determine human motivation and behavioral bonding. I would propose to show how Desai incorporates evolutionary ideas in the representation of the causal factors that have made the characters inevitably what they are.

Soul Mountain suggests a universal landscape of the human mind that can be scientifically mapped and an understanding of the evolutionary foundations of human behavior.



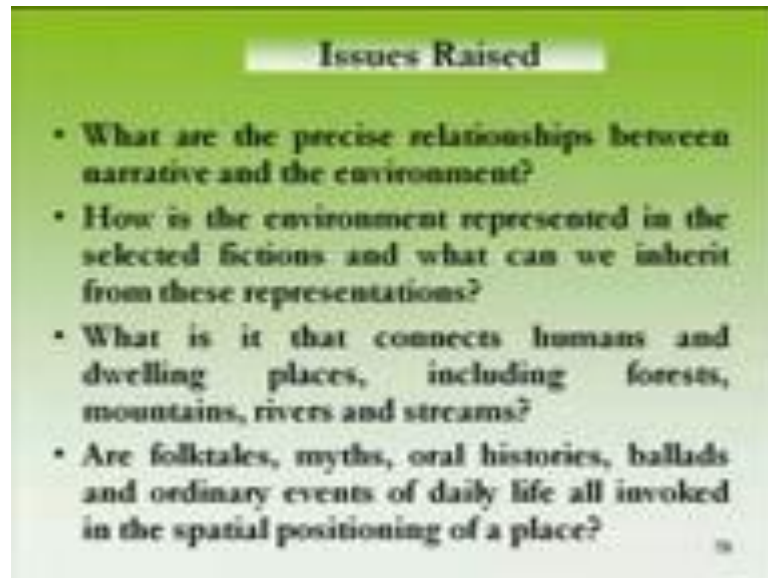
As Buddhism history folk songs and memory the folk songs make a lot of contribution to the understanding of this novels in Desai novels you find that a characters are shown almost in organic forms, are subject to change through interaction with their environment influence I proposed to show how Desai incorporates evolutionary ideas in the representation of the causal factors that have made the characters inevitably what they are there is...

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Therefore, careful dramatization in both the 2 novels of human as animal a relationship of reciprocity between the biological and the social therefore, this is not anthropocentric way of looking it, but it is almost that you are a part of the biota you are a part of the ecological system. The special environment everyday light the secret under peregrine also you can look into it how it is controlled inhabited eroded displayed much special issues and ever singing nature of location; special issues has as environmental degradation both the conflicts influence both the novels. So, let us discuss now coming today end of this what are the issues that, we can look at while we are doing eco criticism as literary theory, as literary criticism. The issues raised are what the pricisalationship between narratives are environment.

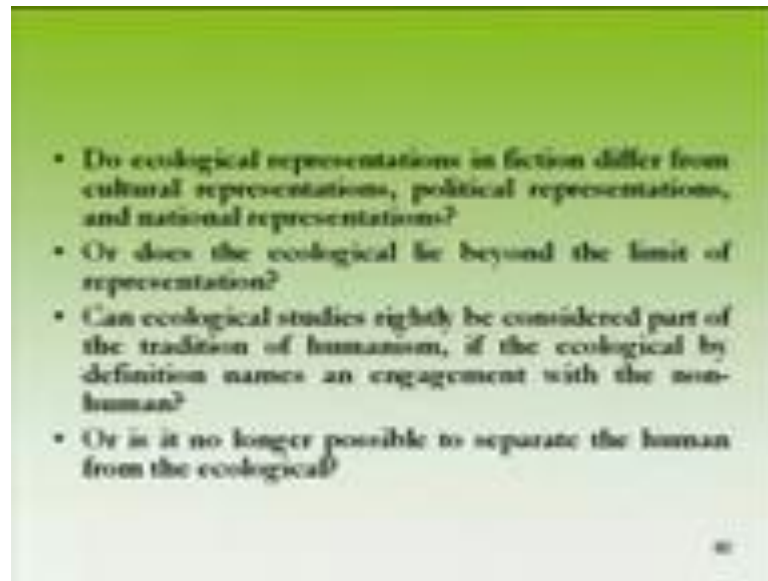
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How is the environment represented in the selected fictions and what can we inherit from these representations. Suppose, you take up on text then we have to see how environment or eco system is being represented; you can take insides from the biological sciences from the natural sciences from the physical sciences, because eco criticism covers all and it is it covers multitudes as Walt Whitman Whitman had said. What is did that connects humans and dwelling places including forests, mountains, rivers and streams. There are places which are sacred, there are places which are profane, there are no places, there are places where you have connections with memory, are folktales myths oral histories ballads and ordinary events of daily life all invoked in the spatial positioning of a place do you agree with that? Yes very much.

So, folktales sometimes give you more insides into what a place is the connection with the place than any other source. Do ecological representation in fiction, differ from culture representations which we had done before as a culture study or a Marxist study or from the feminist perspective or from the classical view point of how you read a text or does the ecological lie beyond the limit of representation.

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How do you think that it does not fall in this representation or at all that it has no place at all. In the perspective of reading the text can ecological studies rightly be considered part of the tradition of humanism? If the ecological by definition names an engagement with the non human because it has the engagement with the non human, yet the non human also includes the human as biota and does it have a different form of humanism and can we call it a tradition of humanism or future humanism if you want to term it as. So, or is it no longer possible to separate the human from the ecological.

So; the references are from genetin bate to song of that Lawrence coupe racial Kasen Edward had caused the fate of place, that we have laden scoop and another great writer green studies reader, from romanticism to eco criticism.

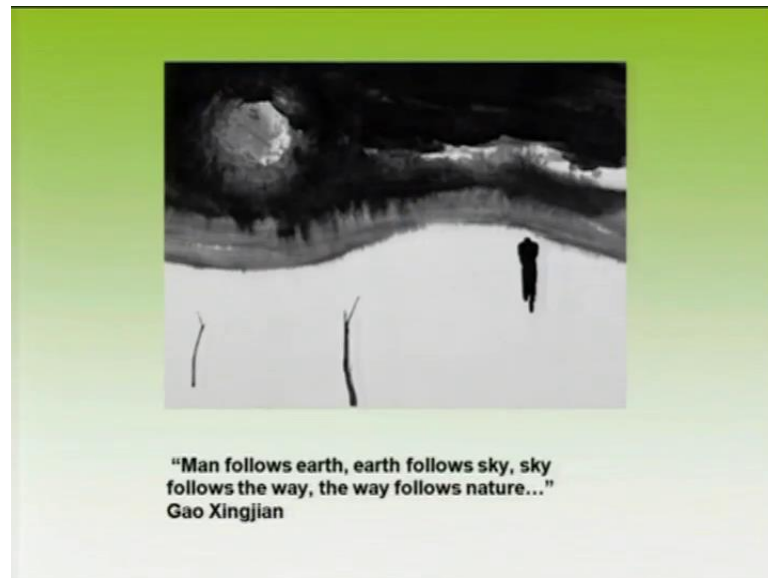
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I have mentioned here Ernest Hemingway the old man and the sea Kiran Desai's inheritance inheritance of loss Greg Garrad eco criticism Cheryl Gottlieb. We have already mentioned this, which is a key figure here, J.D. Krishnamurti on the nature and the environment blissful as his which he has written about the essential response to nature and S. murali's nature and human nature literature ecology and meaning arenaess.

Who brought out deep ecology the meaning of deep ecology which was connected with the understanding of the myths and parables in alternate knowledge systems and Eugene Odum. Then we had John Stenberg the grip of rod Myson also many books that he had written, which he conceived from that side Raymond Williams, the country and the city and Gao Xingjain soul mountain.

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Electronic sources, which you can get on eco criticism from the net and let me quote an end my lecture on eco criticism from a quotation from Gao Xingjian man, follows earth, follows sky, sky follows the way and the way follows nature.

Thanks.