

# Connecting Undergraduate Level English Courses to *GREENR*

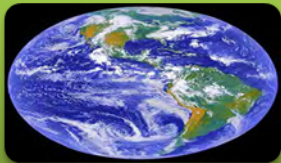
*"Landscapes tell us much about the values we hold and at the same time affect the quality of the lives that we lead."* –D.W. Meinig

## Relevant Courses



### Literature and the Environment

- Courses in environmental literature address how geographical concepts are incorporated into works of literature. Essentially, there are two directions in this genre: descriptions of experiences "in" nature or what some call "witnessing," and discussions of philosophical issues about the relationship between humans and nature.



### Nature Writing

- **Nature Writing** frames human interactions with the natural environment and highlights how these writings are relevant to current ecological problems and issues, but it also demands that we step back from the scientific knowledge to inquire about how cultural values have shaped our definitions of nature, our perceptions of and relationships to the natural environment, and our political priorities relative to the kinds of environmental problems and solutions



### Culture and Environment

- These courses introduce students to the complex relationship between the literary genre created by environmentalism, and city environment or postmodernism, through the examination of the history and the present situations of the global movement of environmental protection and discussion over the points of contact between environment and culture.



### Environmental Journalism

- Courses in the growing area of environmental journalism cover a wide range of environmental topics and introduce journalistic principles for how best to report them. Classes can take on hot topics such as Disputes Over Land-Use, how to cover industries with bad reputations and the the politics of endangered species.

## Major Topics

### EcoFeminism

- There is a distinct connection between women and nature. The ecofeminist movement explores this connection. Eco-feminist look to find answers to questions such as: How do social and cultural forces construct a gendered concept of non-human nature, traditionally associating women with nature? What are the implications? How do women write about their experiences in nature?

### Consumption & Waste

- Writers have always been inspired by controversial topics. One current issue that is gaining traction is consumption and waste. There are growing libraries of literature and journalism on the topic, but perhaps one of the most interesting dynamics is the differing views between writers in the northern and southern hemispheres.

### Shared Hardship

- The changing planet is a global phenomena, not just a local occurrence. How the planet is changing the local experience provides a glimpse into the magnitude and severity of the problem. Writers across the world are sharing their stories of hardship and change. This collection is helping to give students and scholars a better idea of how we are all affected by the climate change.

## Four of the most common student assignments

### ✓ *CRITICAL RESPONSE PROJECT*

- At the end of the term students are asked to present a project that serves as a critical response to a specific issue or problem in the current relationship between human culture and the natural environment. Student projects may come from any discipline or across any of several (e.g., architecture, sculpture, literary criticism fiction or poetry, natural history, law, petroleum engineering, ethics, agriculture, renewable resources, history, economics, biology). To complement each project a written analytical component is required to explain the objectives and reasoning behind the project. For example, if a student created a work of sculpture or designed an agricultural model, an explanation of the principles that inform the work, commenting on just how the sculpture or agricultural model embodies a particular topic.

### ✓ *NATURE WRITERS NOTEBOOK*

- Keep a nature writers' notebook. Selected pages from the students' nature writers' notebook are turned in several times during the quarter. This is a place to muse/fuss/philosophize about readings and a place to keep track of what is happening in the nature/landscape/space around you.

### ✓ *ANALYSIS OF GREEN ADVERTISING*

- To complete this assignment, you'll need to look at a variety of ads, which should be no problem since the average American is exposed to several thousand ads per week, looking for those that manipulate or appropriate nature or environmental concerns. Complete an analysis where you describe what the effect, affect, techniques or consequences of supposed "green" advertising are. A part of the challenge of completing this assignment is that the student must think about ads in a new way and be able to interpret the symbolic meanings implied, but not necessarily intended, by the ad.

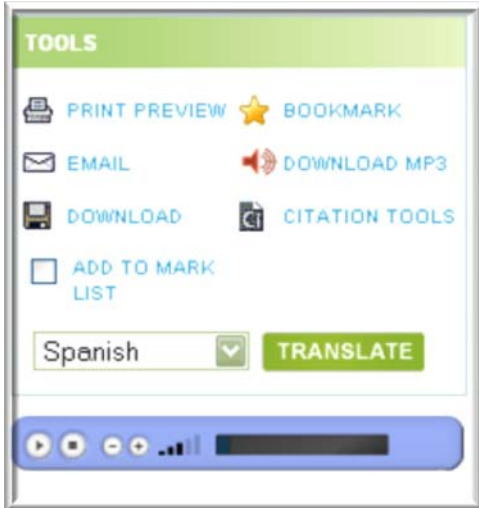
### ✓ *SECTION DISCUSSION LEADER*

- Small teams of students are responsible for identifying materials for class discussion. Students must select materials and submit them to the instructor two weeks prior to their class discussion. These materials can be from additional chapters of books already assigned in the course, articles, books or even films or music. Readings should be limited to 20 pages per chapter.

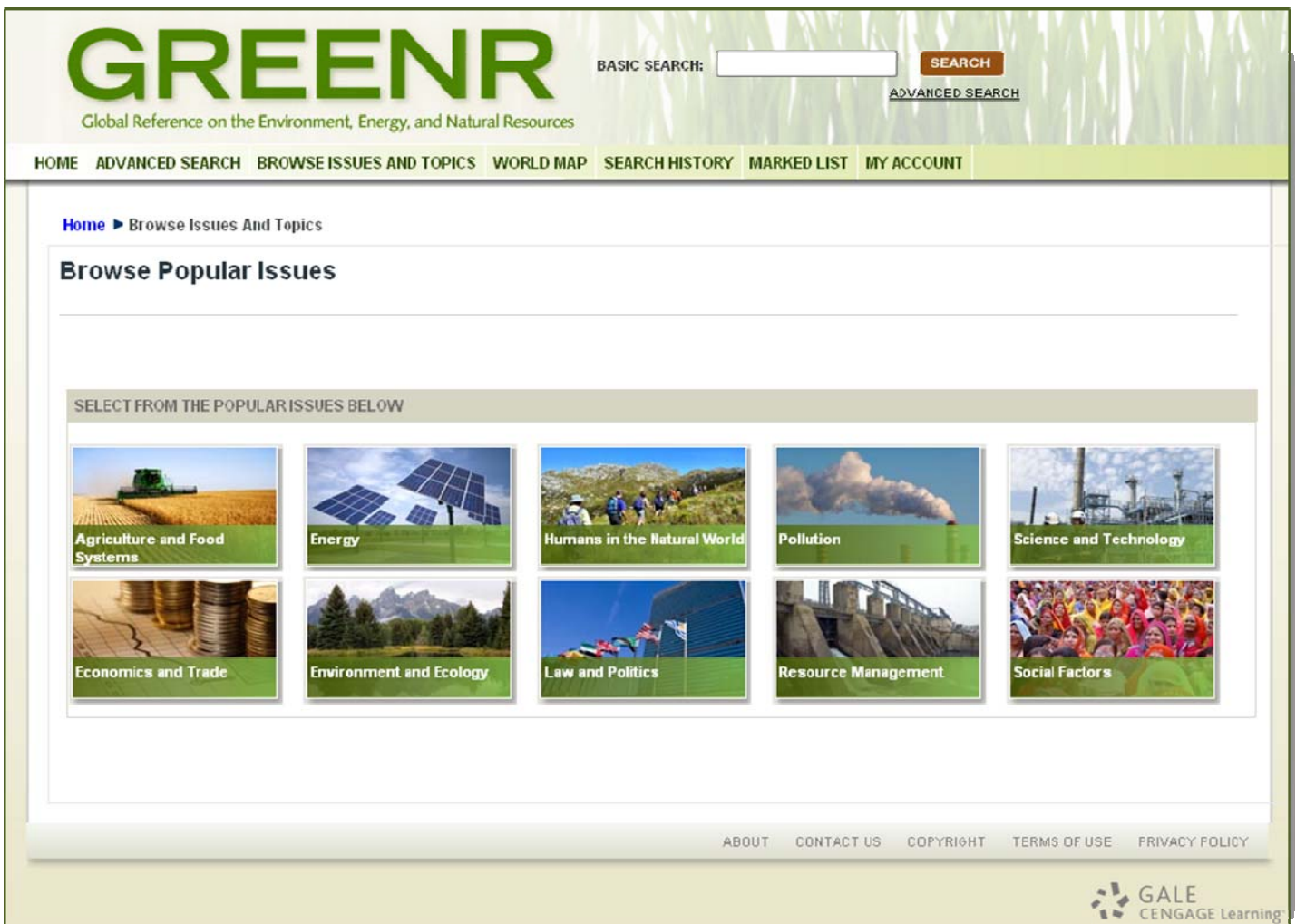


## How a student would use GREENR to complete these assignments

### Features:



English assignments are complex by nature. Students must not only be able to find relevant sources that solidify their claims but also must be able to interweave this knowledge into their writing be it journalism, fiction, narrative, or poetry. With *GREENR* students have the ability to make connections between the issues they are writing about and the most up to date research and events. *GREENR* gives students the upper hand as they seek to understand the both the global and local consequences of our interactions with the Earth. For English students who want to know the facts about our changing planet there is no better authoritative resource than *GREENR*.



## ***Making sense of green advertising techniques***

For students who need to make sense of the marketing practices of advertisers *GREENR* can be the resource that makes understanding the marketers' techniques easy. *GREENR* has industry overviews of the "green marketing" industry; prepared by Greener Management Intl. and selected trade publications. Using *GREENR* students will also be able to understand which scenes and messages will play better in which markets. The database also contains numerous case studies on advertising that can be related to the topic.

## ***Case studies, research, and periodicals for leading class discussions***

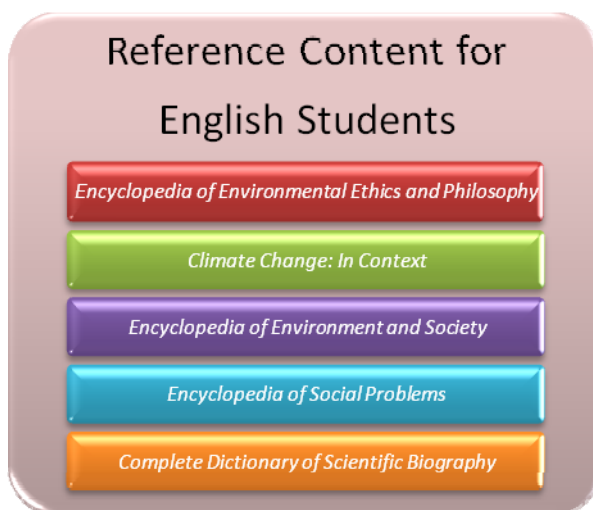
Need to find that perfect article to impress the professor or keep an active discussion going in class? *GREENR* can help students pick the most current, controversial, and comprehensive topics to discuss and provide full text articles that explore them. One of *GREENR*'s hundreds of case studies is a perfect choice for spurring debate and discussion. Research reports make sense for making a point during a presentation, and *GREENR*'s periodical content helps to explain complex environmental issues in simple terms.

## ***A more robust writers' notebook***

The writers' notebook assignment is a chance for students to think about the world around them, and how they and their community are interacting with it. The goal of the project is to allow students to think less about what is happening and more about why it's happening. With *GREENR* students can get the global picture of how what they see in their local community is part of a larger process of change. *GREENR* provides detailed insight and analysis of topics through portal pages that highlight the best in research, multi-media and news coverage of issues. Students can use the portal pages to quickly find information that will allow them to write stronger entries in their writers' notebook.

## ***Resources for the critical response project***

When students have assignments that require them to take a position on an issue finding the latest research is essential to formulating a strong position. *GREENR* gives students a look at not only the latest scholarship but suggests relevant conference presentations, reports/overviews and libraries that specialize in controversial research topics. These resources are the perfect complement to *GREENR*'s in-depth reference content.



## ***Multimedia content that covers both sides of the issues***

*GREENR* contains multimedia content from all over the world that addresses the social, political, and ethical issues associated with environmental topics. With reporting from the Associated Press, NBC News, and National Public Radio, students will get balanced coverage of issues. Each multimedia clip gives local insight into issues and highlights global impact.