



ENGL385 Junior Literary Seminar

The World of Things

Are we rational creatures --under game theory-- who make rational choices that benefit ourselves (and the collective) to keep the game going? Or has something happened that changes the way we experience human subjectivity? Are we objectified or do we live in a thinghood with other things? On the other hand, might a different set of questions be asked: What liberates objects from object/human relationship to other relationship networks? And what happens to the very idea of the human when considered in relation to the earth



itself? What kinds of writing give voices to current struggles experienced by people, animals and things? Designed to build on English 201 and give literature students a special venue for discussion and learning, this class considers recent developments in critical theory and explore Dialectical

Materialism, Thing Theory, Post-colonial Ecocriticism and Vibrant Materialism.

Course material includes: Selected writing by Virginia Woolf. Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* (1726). Selected writing by Ding Ling (1904-1986). Arundhati Roy, *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* (2017). Susanne Collins, *The Hungry Games* (2008). *Buffalo Bird Woman's Garden: As Recounted by Maxi'diwiac* (ca.1839-1932) of the Hidatsa Indian Tribe. 1932

Dr. Wo

Fall 2022

Thursday 1 to 4:40 PM

**Meet Junior Seminar Requirement for the Lit Concentration.
300-level General Lit. Students from all tracks are welcome.**

Illustration 1 excerpted from the MV of George Michael's December Song. Illustration 2 by Jimmy Lau, an illustrator and artist based in Taiwan.