

## Sandmeyer – 4. Mentoring/Advising – Honors Students

### Overview:

I have supervised one honors student, Anne H., over the last 6 six years. During the AY 2018-19, Anne wrote a **capstone thesis** titled " New Problems for Contemporary Restoration: A Look into Classism and Cultural Appropriation."

She stated her goal in the proposal documents as follow:

The goal of my research is to investigate this metaphysical relationship between humans and the environment in a way that provides constructive guidelines for future policy concerning conservation and preservation of the environment. My hope is that by adopting a more nuanced conceptual identity of the natural world, politicians, scientists, and environmentalists will be able to help foster the continued growth of the environment, for the protection of both natural resources and natural beauty.

The **scope of this idea** was too grandiose, especially for her understanding of the history and philosophy of conservation to that point. Consequently, we met twice a month over the year, during the first semester, to pare down the scale of her project and, during the second, to write the thesis. Over the fall term 2018, she constructed an annotated bibliography on the history and the philosophy of wilderness restoration, and during spring 2019, she wrote the paper. On April 26, 2019, she presented her thesis to the University community.

Here is an articulation of her project, written by Anne in her thesis:

The first notions of environmental conservation were introduced in the early 20th century within the conflicting doctrines of John Muir and Gifford Pinchot. Both Muir and Pinchot were invested in the idea of conservation, but they advocated for the separate notions of preservation and development, respectively. Then, halfway through the century, Aldo Leopold presented what became his famous essay on cultivating a land ethic, which to many represented an attempt at reconciling the two shockingly different ecological doctrines pursued by Muir and Pinchot. Leopold recognized that wilderness must be preserved and protected but envisioned an ecological community where the land was recognized as a member of such. These three works represent the foundations of modern conservation, and their work continues to be relevant in contemporary discussions of environmental conservation and philosophy. In the first section of this literature review I will discuss the beliefs held by Muir, Pinchot, and Leopold as a foundation on which to provide a basis for discussing evolving and contemporary conceptions of ecology. In the following sections I will outline some of the important contributions of famous philosophers/ecologists such as William Cronon, John Baird Callicott, and Ramachandra Guha whose views are building off this foundation.