This section of ENG 2310 serves a dual purpose: it fulfills the Common Core requirement for American Literary Cultures, and it counts toward the Environmental Humanities minor. As an American Literary Cultures course, it introduces students to literature created in the United States from the 18th century to today. We will read a variety of genres, including poetry, short stories, and novels, and we will be studying writers from diverse backgrounds to understand the broad scope of this field. Within this larger context, our readings will be organized specifically around issues related to the environment: depictions of the “wilderness” in American literature, human/nonhuman interactions, and specific ecosystems as settings, such as mountain ranges and swamps. Our goal will be to discover how literature portrays humans within the natural world.