

French

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	LES PENSEURS DU VIVANT: NEW FRENCH THINKING ON ECOLOGY
Code	FRU44182
Semester	2
ECTS credits	5
Pre-requisite	Before taking this module, you must take FRU22001 [UBEUFRGR-2MF]
Coordinator	Prof Michael Cronin croninm8@tcd.ie

Module Content

The climate emergency is the dominant issue of our time. Understanding the nature of the crisis, investigating its origins and articulating appropriate responses are tasks that have been undertaken by a generation of French thinkers from Michel Serres and Bruno Latour to Vinciane Despret and Estelle Zhong Mengual. They offer original perspectives on the relationship of humans to the natural world and how the breakdown in that relationship has affected every area of modern life.

The module will explore the development of French thinking about the natural world from the medieval period through to the Renaissance and Enlightenment and into the Modern Age.

The consequences of new French thinking on ecology for how humans might engage with politics, culture, economy and society will be explored through a number of key texts.

The ecological turn in contemporary French thought will be examined to establish the relevance of this thinking to the choices and challenges of the age of the Anthropocene.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Discuss key theoretical aspects of the concept of ecology
2. Identify a wide range of issues relating to identity, politics, aesthetics and language as they are articulated through French language writings on ecology
3. Critique the historical role of currents of French thinking in the construction of extractivist paradigms
4. Explain the different ways in which ecological thinking has evolved over time in the French-speaking world



5. Produce essays in both English and French demonstrating the ability to organise, analyse and evaluate relevant material

Assessment

One end-of-term essay (2,500 words)