This course will examine the environment of the Greek and Roman worlds outside of the walls of the city, exploring antiquity’s productive and destructive interactions with the more-than-human world. It will also study how Greek and Roman poets, novelists, and philosophers imagined a cultural relationship to nature. Our case studies will include exploration of topics ranging from animals and ancient farming manuals to philosophies of nature and conceptions of the end of the world.

Students will learn about:
• differing conceptions of humanity’s relation to nature in Greek and Roman literature and culture, and their implications
• the impact of humans and their technologies on the ecology of the ancient Mediterranean basin
• contemporary theoretical approaches to studying Greco-Roman interactions with and conceptions of the natural world
• improved skills in research, analysis and written communication

No prerequisites.