This course will explore the genre of nature writing and the subject of falconry from a number of perspectives—from medieval hunting manuals, to the diaries of novelist T.H. White, to the memoirs of modern falconers. Within the category of “Nature Writing” we will explore different forms, from technical manuals, to lyrical journals, to conservation arguments. We’ll consider how humans and birds have worked together for centuries and how humans have used their relationships with these animals to understand more about our own humanity. In some way, each of these texts demonstrates the limits and boundaries of human subjectivity and human language. Each of these works causes us to think about why we need to keep looking to the sky, trying to understand ourselves from a winged perspective. In order to give us a chance to witness birds of prey firsthand, the course will culminate in a visit to Hawk Mountain during the Fall Migration period.

Readings include:
David Cobham, *A Sparrowhawk’s Lament*, 2014 (Canvas)
T.H. White, *The Sword in the Stone*, 1939 (Canvas)
Barry Hines, *A Kestrel for a Knave*, 1968 (bookstore)
medieval hunting manuals and Arabic hunting poems (10th-15th centuries) (Canvas)

**Grading Breakdown**

**Participation, homework, in-class writing - 10%**

3 **Analysis essays - 60%**: 900-1200 word essays, including first drafts and peer reviews, responding to the three central themes of the course: Falconry in Fiction, Falconry as Memoir, and Falconry and Conservation

**Group Presentation - 10%**: (groups of 2) leading discussion on a text, including distribution of discussion questions in advance of presentation

**Paper on Field Experience - 20%**: in response to our visit to Hawk Mountain, a 900-1200 word essay adopting one of the genres covered during the course and incorporating textual citations from at least 2 of the texts from the semester. The final draft of this paper will be due during finals week, in place of a final exam.
**Week 1:**
Wednesday, Aug. 30
Read in class: Excerpts from Aristotle’s *On Animals* (4th century BCE) [CANVAS]
Friday, Sept. 1
Read: Excerpts from Frederick II of Hohenstaufen’s *On the Art of Hunting with Birds* (13th century) (Part 1) [CANVAS]

**Week 2:**
Monday, Sept. 4
Read: Excerpts from Frederick II’s *On the Art of Hunting with Birds* (Part 2) [CANVAS]
Wednesday, Sept. 6
Read: Selected *tardiyat* (Arabic hunting poems from 10th-14th centuries) & Nabati falconry poems from Abu Dhabi International Hunting and Equestrian Exhibition (2015) [CANVAS]
Friday, Sept. 8
Read: Excerpts from *The Good Wife's Guide* (*Le Ménagier de Paris*) (1393) [CANVAS]; Excerpts from Juliana Berners *Boke of Saint Albans* (1486) [CANVAS]

Sign up for Group Presentations

**Week 3:**
Monday, Sept. 11
Read: Cassell’s *Natural History: The Feathered Tribes* (1854) [CANVAS]; Goodrich’s *Illustrated Natural History of the Animal Kingdom* (1865) [CANVAS]
Today’s class will meet in the lobby of the North Museum of Nature and Science, Avian Taxidermy Room. Bring your F&M ID for entry.

Wednesday, Sept. 13

**Week 4:**
Monday, Sept. 18
Jean Craighead George *My Side of the Mountain* (1959) (pp. ix-101; read up to “I Find Out What to Do with Hunters”) [in Mountain Trilogy BOOKSTORE]
Friday, Sept. 22
Read: Jean Craighead George *My Side of the Mountain* (pp. 101-177 [end])

**Week 5:**
Monday, Sept. 25
Read: Jean Craighead George *Frightful's Mountain* (1999); Foreword by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (pp.ix-xii) (pp. 1-112; read up to “There are Eggs and Trouble”)

**Group 1: post questions to Canvas by Tuesday night 11:59 pm**

**Wednesday, Sept. 20**
Read: Jean Craighead George *On the Far Side of the Mountain* (pp. 81-170 [end])

**Group presentation (Group 1)**
Friday, Sept. 22
Read: Jean Craighead George *Frightful's Mountain* (1999); Foreword by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. (pp.ix-xii) (pp. 1-112; read up to “There are Eggs and Trouble”)

**Group 2: post questions to Canvas by Tuesday night 11:59 pm**

Falconry Across Cultures and Centuries

Falconry in Fiction
Wednesday, Sept. 27
Read: Barry Hines *A Kestrel for a Knave* (1968) (pp. 1-80)
**Group Presentation (Group 2)**

Friday, Sept. 29
Read: Barry Hines *A Kestrel for a Knave* (1968) (pp. 81-end)

**Week 6:**
Monday, Oct. 2**
Peer-review: Post first draft of Analysis Essay 1 to Canvas before class (Bring laptop to class)
**Analysis Essay 1 due to Canvas by 11:59 pm**

Wednesday, Oct. 4
Read: T.H. White *The Goshawk* (1951) Introduction by Marie Winn (pp. v-xv) (Part 1: pp. 11-91)[BOOKSTORE]

Friday, Oct. 6
Read: T.H. White *The Goshawk* (Part 1: pp. 91-139)

**Week 7:**
Monday, Oct. 9: FALL BREAK; NO SCHOOL

**Group 3: post questions to Canvas by Tuesday night 11:59 pm**

Wednesday, Oct. 11
**Group Presentation (Group 3)**

Friday, Oct. 13

**Week 8:**
Monday, Oct. 16
Read: Helen Macdonald *H is for Hawk* (2014) (Chapters 1-7: pp. 3-73) [BOOKSTORE]

Wednesday, Oct. 18
Read: Helen Macdonald *H is for Hawk* (Chapters 8-17: pp. 74-163)
**Group 4: post questions to Canvas by Thursday night 11:59 pm**

Friday, Oct. 20
Read: Helen Macdonald *H is for Hawk* (Chapters 18-24: pp.167-231)
**Group Presentation (Group 4)**

**Week 9:**
Monday, Oct. 23
Read: Helen Macdonald *H is for Hawk* (Chapter 25-Postscript: pp. 232-283)

Wednesday, Oct. 25

Friday, Oct. 27**
Read: Tim Gallagher, excerpts from *Falcon Fever* (pp. 147-157; pp. 193-206; pp. 261-263; 283- 290; Epilogue pp. 319-321)

**Week 10:**
Monday, Oct. 30
Peer-review: Post first draft of Analysis Essay 2 to Canvas before class
**Analysis Essay 2 due to Canvas by 11:59 pm** (Bring laptop to class)
Wednesday, Nov. 1
Read: J.A. Baker *The Peregrine* (1967) Introduction by Robert Macfarlane (pp. vii-xv); (Parts 1 and 2: pp. 9-36) [BOOKSTORE]

Friday, Nov. 3
*Group 5: post questions to Canvas by Sunday night 11:59 pm*

Saturday, November 4: 8:30am leave for Hawk Mountain, back by 4:30pm

**Week 11:**
Monday, Nov. 6
Read: J.A. Baker *The Peregrine* (p. 89- up to “February 17th” p. 136)
*Group Presentation (Group 5)*

Wednesday, Nov. 8
Read: J.A. Baker *The Peregrine* (p. 136-end)
Friday, Nov. 10: No Class

**Week 12:**
Monday, Nov. 13
Read: David Cobham *A Sparrowhawk’s Lament* (2014) (Introduction; Chapter 1 “The Sparrowhawk”; Chapter 7 “The Hen Harrier”) [CANVAS]
*Group 6: post questions to Canvas by Tuesday night 11:59 pm*

Tuesday, Nov. 14: 11:30-12:30, Jack Hubley, Master Falconer presentation in Booth Ferris North

Wednesday, Nov. 15
Read: David Cobham *A Sparrowhawk’s Lament* (Chapter 9 “The Goshawk”; Chapter 11 “The Golden Eagle”; Chapter 12 “The Kestrel”)
*Group Presentation (Group 6)*

Friday, Nov. 17
Read: David Cobham *A Sparrowhawk’s Lament* (Chapter 13 “The Merlin”; Chapter 15 “The Peregrine Falcon”; Conclusion)

**Week 13:**
Monday, Nov. 20**
Peer-review: Post first draft of Analysis Essay 3 to Canvas before class (Bring laptop to class)
*Analysis Essay 3 due to Canvas by 11:59 pm*

Wednesday, Nov. 22-Friday, Nov. 24: THANKSGIVING BREAK; NO SCHOOL

**Week 14:**
Monday, Nov. 27
Read: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s *New York State Falconry Examination Manual* [CANVAS]

Wednesday, Nov. 29
Read: excerpts from California Hawking Club’s *Apprentice Study Guide* [CANVAS]

Friday, Dec. 1
**NO CLASS**
First Draft of Field Response paper to Canvas by 11:59pm
**Week 15:**

**Monday, Dec. 4**
Read: 3 Peers’ field experience papers and bring written feedback/questions to class

**Wednesday, Dec. 6**
Read: Excerpts from Frederick II of Hohenstaufen’s *On the Art of Hunting with Birds* (13th century) (part 3) [CANVAS]

**Friday, Dec. 8**
Peer Review: Post Second Draft of Field Response paper to Canvas before class

Final draft of Field Response paper due during the assigned Final Exam date for the class

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES**

**Etiquette:** Please arrive to class on time and turn your cell phones off, and please refrain from using them during class. If you have an emergency for which you must leave your cell phone on, please notify me before class. On peer-review days, or days on which the readings are posted to Canvas, it is appropriate to bring your laptops out during class. But otherwise please do not use laptops or other electronic devices in class unless you have written permission from the Office of Student Accessibility Services (https://www.fandm.edu/office-of-student-accessibility-services/disability-accessibility-statement).

**Attendance and Participation:** Your attendance and class participation, quantity and quality, will play a role in your final grade. “Participation” means that you have done the readings, brought them to class, and demonstrated your readiness to discuss the readings by actively participating in large group discussion and small group work. **Dates marked with **two asterisks** are peer-review workshops and attendance is mandatory.** Unexcused absences on these days will result in a 5% drop in your overall course grade.

Laptops are available on loan through the Technology Equipment Lending Program, located in the Kreisel Innovation Zone (KIZ) on the ground floor of the Patricia E. Harris Center for Business, Government & Public Policy (Building #21). You are advised to book early, well in advance of the date for which a laptop is needed. See here for more details: https://www.fandm.edu/its/tlc

**Assignments:** You should submit your essays to Canvas as a .doc(x) only. It is your responsibility to make sure your assignment has uploaded correctly and on time. Please follow MLA guidelines for format and citations. Any form of plagiarism or other forms of academic misconduct are prohibited and all suspected cases will be referred to the Office of the Dean of College and the Student Conduct Committee. Please see this website for more information about F&M’s policies on Academic Honesty: https://www.fandm.edu/catalog/academic-honesty.

**Mandated Reporting:** By law, I am required to report sexual harassment, discrimination, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault involving a student to the Title IX officer.
**Additional Support:** I am here to help you, and my office hours are the perfect time to discuss your questions, concerns, ideas, enthusiasm, and potential paper outlines or theses. While I won’t be able to read entire drafts, I’m more than happy to discuss your papers at any stage with you, and in person really is the best way to do so. My office is 312 Keiper, and I hope to see all of you there!