

MT/SP625

THE MORAL AND SPIRITUAL VISION OF WENDELL BERRY

Instructor	Dr. Brian Volck
Schedule	Mondays, 6:00 – 8:30 pm
Description	This course will explore the essays, fiction, and poetry of one of America's finest living authors, Wendell Berry. We will consider the moral, spiritual, social, and ecological dimensions in the thought of this singular and prolific writer. Special attention will be devoted to themes of embodiment, health, food, community, peacemaking, creaturely limits, and care of the land. In-class activities will include close reading of texts, group discussion, video/slide programs, conversations with guest speakers, and student presentations.
Requirements	Reading: Students should expect to read fewer than 900 pages from the required texts, supplemented by short additional readings, including brief essays, poems, and critical assessments.
	Writing: Students will be required to submit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • single page, written reflections on the weekly reading assignments with at least one question for class discussion, • a 4-6 page mid-semester essay (details TBD), • and a 10-12 page essay on the topic of their class presentation.
	Other Assignments: In our final class session(s), each student will lead a fifteen-minute presentation on a teacher-approved topic relevant to the work of Wendell Berry.

Required Texts:

Author and Title	ISBN	Cost	Pages to be read
Wendell Berry, <i>The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry</i> , Edited by Norman Wirzba (Shoemaker and Hoard, 2002)	1-59376-007-8	\$16.95	250
Wendell Berry, <i>That Distant Land: The Collected Stories</i> (Shoemaker and Hoard, 2004)	1-59376-054-X	\$18.95	200
Wendell Berry, <i>New Collected Poems</i> (Counterpoint, 2012)	978-1-61902-152-5	\$20.95	50
Wendell Berry, <i>The Memory of Old Jack</i> (Counterpoint, 1999)	1-58243-043-8	\$15.95	170
Wendell Berry, <i>Hannah Coulter</i> (Shoemaker and Hoard, 2004)	1-59376-078-7	\$16.95	190