Frequently Asked Questions
Regarding the Burroughs Conference & Seminar

1. If I have registered for the class, do I also need to go to the conference website
http://www.oneonta.edu/academics/english/conferences/johnburroughs.html and register?
No-if you have registered through the Office of Continuing Education to take the class, you are all set, and you do NOT have to pay the $150 conference registration fee.

2. Are there any extra costs associated with the conference? There is a fifty dollar fee that covers the cost of the conference banquet, transportation for the field trip to Woodchuck Lodge and the textbook (a collection of essays by John Burroughs).

3. How about housing? If you do not have local housing during the conference, you are welcome to make arrangements to stay on campus. Call the housing office and say that you are a student for the Burroughs conference. The phone number is 607-436-2514 for the main office.

4. What are the course requirements? Will there be a final exam or paper?
No—the conference is a unique opportunity for our students, and the course requirements are therefore unusual as well. Simply come to the presentations delivered by our visiting scholars (a full description is available in the conference program, which is also available online and will be continuously updated until the week of the conference) and take notes. You will later compile your notes, type them up as an informal response paper and submit them to Prof. Payne within a week of the end of the conference. Most entries will only be a paragraph or two in length.

5. That’s it? Just a response paper? Not quite—the other thing I’ll have you do is to select the scholar whose presentation you enjoyed the most and (either alone or with a small group of other students) conduct a short interview with that presenter. Dr. Payne and the other two seminar instructor, Dr. John Tallmadge and Dr. Stephen Mercier will assist you in setting up and preparing for your interview.
6. **Why isn’t there a final paper or research project?** The conference is a different kind of learning experience—I would rather that you came to the talks, special events, field trips, etc. and were able to enjoy and be fully present in the experience, rather than worrying about how you were going to be evaluated.

7. **I’ve never been to a conference—how should I dress?** For the most part, environmental scholars and writers are a pretty informal bunch—so dress comfortably. You may want to dress a little nicer for the welcoming luncheon and closing banquet, but that is up to you. More importantly, on Tuesday and Thursday we will be going on field trips, so dress appropriately—good walking shoes, comfy outdoor clothing, sun and/or insect repellent, etc. Bring also your pen and a small notebook and you may want to bring a camera as well.

*If you have any other questions, please e-mail Prof. Payne at [Daniel.Payne@oneonta.edu](mailto:Daniel.Payne@oneonta.edu). I will continue to update this list of FAQs as questions come in. I’m looking forward to seeing you all in June!*