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## Sample Farm Term Course Descriptions

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### Pilgrim at Scattergood Farm

This class is inspired by and will be structured around *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, by Annie Dillard. In this book, Dillard reflects on her observations of nature while intertwining her personal narrative and her knowledge of science and theology. In this vein, students will explore the farm through the practice of writing. Each day, students will begin by either doing chores on the farm, exploring a part of the farm by walking around, doing an art project using farm and prairie flowers, or learning about the science of a farm animal or plant. Then, the last part of class will be dedicated to writing about our experience. We will read passages of *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek* throughout the day so that we can use Dillard as a model for how we observe, reflect, and write. Assessment in this course will be based on participation in farm activities, reading assignments, and writing assignments. For the final presentations of learning students will work together to produce an anthology of writing and read aloud some of their works for the community.

### Future Farm Fables

In this class we will study fables from numerous different peoples and localities. We will look at origin stories, creation myths, and many other stories that concern themselves with explaining the world and how we as human beings relate to it. From Aesop to more modern storytellers, fabulists use parables and symbols from the world around us to share a set of values with an audience. We will strive to do the same, to access a mythopoeic frame of mind and use the world around us on the farm to weave a new fabric of myths and stories that relate to the goals and concerns of not only modern but also future people! We will be writing, performing, and engaging in a wide variety of crafting projects. Through the act of listening to and telling stories, we seek to study natural histories as well as current issues that affect the present and future of the ecosystem that the Scattergood farm and surrounding Midwestern region are part of. Through storytelling, we also seek to study how this place has been (or will be) affected by climate change and how that is interconnected with the systems of colonialism and capitalism.

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## **Nutrient Management: The love story of manure and farming**

This class will be taking an in-depth look at the different roles and importance that manure occupies at Scattergood's farm, farming as a whole, and in the general public domain. We will investigate the scat of local fauna, discover which organisms are living in our cow pies, and take a look back at the history of human waste management. Students will also be creating compost piles, examining the use of fertilizers in Iowa, constructing a cob oven, and analyzing literature that features feces. The final project will be a creative work conceived by students and instructors in which students will create a poster that deeply explores the manure of one of the animals on Scattergood's farm.