In the Research Master specialisation Literature and Contested Spaces you examine the roles literary texts play in the representation and shaping of contested spaces. In our seminars, tutorials and individual research projects, we explore how novels, poems, and plays shape our perceptions and affect our lived experience of such spaces as the nation, wilderness, or the body. You will analyze how literary representations interact with real or imagined spaces, geographies and ecosystems.

WHY STUDY AT VU AMSTERDAM?
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam offers a thorough training program, with individual guidance by excellent and committed supervisors. The lecturers in the programme are specialists in the field of English or American Literature, from the early modern period to now.

CAREER PROSPECTS
Investing in a research master has proved to be very profitable for our students over the years. We will train you in the skills required to pursue a PhD within academia, and guide you in the writing of a research proposal for a PhD project. You may also become a researcher in a cultural institution, government agency, or NGO.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Applicants must have a Bachelor’s degree in Literary Studies, or English literature, French literature, Dutch literature, or a related field. The student should also have a proficient level of academic English, proof of excellent study results (7.5 average) and a clear motivation for academic research.

SCHOLARSHIPS
We are proud to offer support for highly motivated and excellent students:
* The VU Fellowship Programme (VUFP) for EU and non-EU students
* The Graduate School of Humanities offers three scholarships for excellent students from the Netherlands and other EU countries.
Through intensive training and supervision you will learn to write a research proposal for (inter)national science foundations, and learn to design and position an innovative humanities research project.

**Literature and Contested Spaces**

is a specialisation of the Humanities Research Master.

For more details on the programme, admission, application and scholarships:

Department Language, Literature and Communication. Faculty of Humanities

Dr. K. Steenbergh

EMAIL: k. steenbergh@vu.nl

**PLACE & PLANET IN THE ANTHROPOCENE (6 EC)**

In this course you explore how novels respond to our changing sense of planet, the current climate crisis and the Anthropocene. We will analyze how fictional texts deal with this increasing awareness of human impact on the planet.

**ECOLOGIES AND EMOTIONS (2018 - 2019) (9 EC)**

This course explores the role of public and academic historians in discourses on the nation. With a focus on historiography in transition times, we explore approaches to history through biography, journalism, state commissioned historical research and academic history writing.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES (6 EC)**

Introduction to the history and philosophy of the Humanities, to the VU research environment and the cross cutting themes Digital Humanities and Environmental Humanities. How can we connect Humanities research with societal challenges?

**ESSENTIALS OF HUMANITIES RESEARCH (6 EC)**

This is the first Humanities research design course: you will train to position yourself in the international research field and learn to design and present innovative Humanities research. You will also take active part in the lectures of the Graduate School of Humanities.

**CORE COURSE CONTESTING SPACES (9 EC)**

In this course you examine the roles literary texts play in the representation and shaping of contested spaces. Literature shapes our perceptions and affects our experience of such spaces as nation, wilderness, or the body.

**ESSENTIALS OF HUMANITIES RESEARCH**

This course seeks to introduce students to an approach that is currently of great importance in textual studies: the text as a material object. The aim of the course is to explore how meaning is conveyed by these material features as well as by the words of the text.

**ELECTIVE (E.G. THE MATERIAL BOOK) (6 EC)**

This course explores the role of emotions in past and present relations between humans and the environment. How do hope, shame, fear and guilt play a role in our cultural perceptions of climate change? How were perceptions of nature harnessed to understand emotional behavior in the past?

**ELECTIVE (E.G. THE DIASPORIC EXPERIENCE) (6 EC)**

This course examines literature and visual material that originate in North American diasporic cultures, and that have triggered new ways of thinking about life after migration. Do authors and artists relate similar outlines of displacement, encounters and cultural hybridization?

**ELECTIVE (E.G. GOthic SPACES) (6 EC)**

This course examines the role of the concept of ‘space’ in the Gothic genre. How does the Gothic problematize the idea of place in terms of geographical or as an abstract location of meaning? Does the Gothic keep fascinating because of its ambiguous sense of space?

**INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES**

This course explores the role of public and academic historians in discourses on the nation. With a focus on historiography in transition times, we explore approaches to history through biography, journalism, state commissioned historical research and academic history writing.

**NATIONAL HISTORIOGRAPHIES AND CONTESTED HERITAGE (2019 - 2020) (9 EC)**

In this core course you explore the role of emotions in past and present relations between humans and the environment. How do hope, shame, fear and guilt play a role in our cultural perceptions of climate change? How were perceptions of nature harnessed to understand emotional behavior in the past?