

Furman University Living, Learning Labs

Thoreau Cabin

Summary:

Sustainability necessitates simple lifestyles and a close relationship with and appreciation for our natural surroundings. Essayist, poet, philosopher Henry David Thoreau epitomized the simple life. A replica of Thoreau's cabin from Walden pond was built by a 2009 May Experience class. The cabin stands as a testament to our desires to better connect with nature and to aspire to simple living.

The cabin is located the same distance from Swan Lake that Thoreau's original cabin sat from Walden Pond and invokes a similar familiarity with the natural environment as a space for contemplation and reflection. Thoreau used his experiences of this residence as the foundation for his most famous work, Walden.



Ideas for Class:

- Read Walden or excerpts from this work and meet at the cabin to discuss and contemplate.
- Use Thoreau's cabin as a writing retreat.
- Perhaps the original tiny house. Consider the tiny house movement and the benefits and challenges of simple living.
- Consider the historical and cultural context with a focus on the perceptions of nature in the 1800's.
- Take your class to the cabin and practice mindfulness and quiet contemplation as a reprieve from the bustle of contemporary lifestyles.
- Host "unplugged" office hours to get you and your students offline.

Who to Contact: The Thoreau Cabin is hosted by the English Department. Contact Melissa Browning at 864-294-2066, melissa.browning@furman.edu, scan the QR code to arrange a class visit.

