

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
RELIGION 3710A (FALL 2013)
RELIGIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Prof. Noel A. Salmond
520 2600 ext. 8162
2A38 Paterson Hall
Office Hours: Wed. 10:30 – 12:00 (or by appointment)
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Mondays 6:05 – 8:55
Tory 217

This course examines attitudes in the major world religions to nature and the environment and recent responses by religious traditions to environmental degradation and crisis. We consider what the religions *have said* historically with regard to nature and also what, by implication, various traditions *could say or are saying* (as expressed by recent activists, theologians, and thinkers). The course complements the discussion of environment *and* religions with environmentalism *as* religion.

Required Readings:

These are indicated weekly and available as journal articles and PDFs. Many are located in *Daedalus*, Fall 2001, “Religion and Ecology: Can the Climate Change?” Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Volume 130, Number 4.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Attendance/Participation. This will be based partially on receipt of brief written assignments conducted in the classroom. 15% (Please note that to miss more than three of our twelve weekly sessions is, in effect, to miss one third of the semester which means forfeiting credit for the course.)

In-class test: November 4. 15%

Final Examination: Based on assigned readings and lectures. In Examination Period (Dec. 11 - 22). 30%

Term Paper Proposal: Topic choice, initial abstract, and working bibliography of intended paper
Due Nov. 11. 10%

Term Paper: 2500 words. [This means not less than *10 double spaced pages not including title page and bibliography.*] Topics and specific format to be provided. Due by Friday, Nov. 29 in the Religion drop box on 2A Paterson Hall. 30% Note: Please supply a self-addressed, stamped envelope to facilitate return of your paper with comments.

RESOURCES

Serials:

Worldviews: Environment, Culture, Religion Floor 5 BL65.N35 W675 (also online)

Environmental Ethics Floor 4 Serial GF 80 A. 1E6

Reference:

The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature BL31.E467 2005 (2 vols.)

The Abingdon Dictionary of Living Religions. Keith Crim (ed.). Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1981. BL31.A24

On Reserve for RELI 3710A:

Daedalus, Fall 2001, “Religion and Ecology: Can the Climate Change?” Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Volume 130, Number 4. AS36.A485 Serial

David Kinsley, *Ecology and Religion: Ecological Spirituality in Cross-Cultural Perspective.* Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1995. GF80.K54 1995

Roger S. Gottlieb, ed. *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, Environment*. New York: Routledge, 1996. GF80.T49

Harold Coward and Daniel Maguire, eds. *Visions of a New Earth: Religious Perspectives on Population, Consumption, and Ecology*. Albany: SUNY P, 2000. GF80.V57

Harold Coward, ed. *Population, Consumption, and the Environment: Religious and Secular Views*. Albany: SUNY P, 1995. HB849.42.P67 (Also available online as a Netbook)

Lance Nelson, ed. *Purifying the Earthly Body of God: Religion and Ecology in Hindu India*. Albany: SUNY, 1998. (Also available online as a Netbook)

Roger S. Gottlieb (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Ecology*. New York: Oxford, 2006 BL65.E36 094 2006

Thomas R. Dunlap, *Faith in Nature: Environmentalism as Religious Quest*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2004.

[Harvard World Religions and Ecology Series]:

Buddhism and Ecology: The Interconnection of Dharma and Deeds / edited by Mary Evelyn Tucker and Duncan Ryuken Williams. BQ4570.E23 B83 1997

Christianity and Ecology: Seeking the Well-being of Earth and Humans / edited by Dieter T. Hessel and Rosemary Radford Ruether. BT695.5 C49 2000

Confucianism and Ecology: The Interrelation of Heaven, Earth, and Humans / edited by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Berthrong. B127. C65 1998

Daoism and Ecology: Ways Within a Cosmic Landscape / edited by N.J. Girardot, James Miller, and Liu Xiaogan. BL 1923. D36 2001

Hinduism and Ecology: The Intersection of Earth, Sky, and Water / edited by Christopher Key Chapple and Mary Evelyn Tucker. BL 1215. N34 H56 2000

Indigenous Traditions and Ecology: The Interbeing of Cosmology and Community / edited by John Grim GN 470.2 I53 2001

Islam and Ecology: A Bestowed Trust / edited by Richard Foltz, Frederick Denny, and Azizan Baharuddin. BP 190.5 N38 186 2003

Jainism and Ecology: Nonviolence in the Web of Life / edited by Christopher Key Chapple. BL 1375. H85 J35 2002

Judaism and Ecology: Created World and Revealed Word / edited by Hava Tirosh-Samuels. BM 538. H85 J85 2002

Highly recommended web resources:

Forum on Religion and Ecology (hosted at Yale University) <http://fore.research.yale.edu>

Site of Prof. Bron Taylor <http://www.brontaylor.com/>

Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) <http://arcworld.org/>

[Hyperlinks to other internet resources will be provided on the course website]

RELI 3710A SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 **Introduction to the Course**
Sept. 9 nature religion vs. religious environmentalism
 green vs. dark green religion

WEEK 2 **The field and White's seminal essay**
Sept. 16

Mary Evelyn Tucker and John A. Grim, "Introduction: The Emerging Alliance of World Religions and Ecology" *Daedalus* 130, 4, Fall, 2001

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/20027715.pdf?acceptTC=true>

Lynn White Jr., "The Historical Roots of our Ecologic Crisis"

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/stable/1720120>

WEEK 3 **Judaism**
Sept. 23

Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, "Nature in the Sources of Judaism" <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/20027720.pdf>

Steven Schwarzschild, "The Unnatural Jew"

http://www.pdcnet.org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/collection/authorizedshow?id=enviroethics_1984_0006_0004_0347_0362&pdfname=enviroethics_1984_0006_0004_0059_0074.pdf&file_type=pdf

Arthur Waskow, "And the Earth is Filled with the Breath of Life"

<http://www.crosscurrents.org/waskow.htm>

WEEK 4 **Christianity I**
Sept. 30

Sallie McFague, "New House Rules: Christianity, Economics, and Planetary Living"

Anna Peterson, "In and of the World? Christian Theological Anthropology and Environmental Ethics"

<http://journals2.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/tmp/14330584256330298747.pdf>

A Pastoral Letter on the Christian Ecological Imperative from the Social Affairs Commission, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, October 4, 2003 <http://www.cccb.ca/Files/pastoralenvironment.html>

WEEK 5 **Christianity II**
Oct. 7

Thomas Berry "The Universe Story: Its Religious Significance." In *Liberating Faith: Religious Voices for Justice, Peace, and Ecological Wisdom*. Ed. Roger S. Gottlieb. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003.

The Cornwall Declaration

<http://www.cornwallalliance.org/articles/read/the-cornwall-declaration-on-environmental-stewardship/>

E. Calvin Beisner, "The Competing World Views of Environmentalism and Christianity."

<http://www.cornwallalliance.org/docs/THECOM~1.PDF>

WEEK 6 Thanksgiving (no class)
Oct. 14

WEEK 7 **Hinduism**
Oct. 21

Vasudha Narayanan, "Water, Wood, and Wisdom: Ecological Perspectives from the Hindu Tradition"

Kelly D. Alley, "Idioms of Degeneracy: Assessing Ganga's Purity and Pollution"
http://home.sandiego.edu/~kaufmann/hnrs379/Alley_1998.pdf

WEEK 8 Fall Break (no class)
Oct. 28

WEEK 9 **Buddhism**
Nov. 4 (in-class test)

Donald Swearer, "Principles and Poetry, Places and Stories: The Resources of Buddhist Ecology"

Rita Gross, "Toward a Buddhist Environmental Ethic"
<http://jaar.oxfordjournals.org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/content/65/2/333.full.pdf+html>

WEEK 10 **East Asian Religions**
Nov. 11 (paper proposal due)

Tu Weiming, "The Ecological Turn in New Confucian Humanism: Implications for China and the World."

Yi-Fu Tuan, "Discrepancies between Environmental Attitude and Behaviour: Examples from Europe and China" *Canadian Geographer*, 13/3, 1968

WEEK 11 **Indigenous Traditions**
Nov. 18

Jack D. Forbes, "Indigenous Americans: Spirituality and Ecos"

Shepard Krech, "American Indians as "first ecologists." In *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*
<http://www.oxfordreference.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/view/10.1093/acref/9780199754670.001.0001/acref-9780199754670-e-25#>

WEEK 12 **Indigenous Traditions**
Nov. 25 (paper due Nov. 29)

Bron Taylor, "Earthen Spirituality or Cultural Genocide? Radical Environmentalism's Appropriation of Native American Spirituality." *Religion* 27 (1997): 183-215.

<http://journals2.scholarsportal.info.proxy.library.carleton.ca/tmp/4313291747380019018.pdf>

Shepard Krech III, "Reflections on Conservation, Sustainability, and Environmentalism in Indigenous North America. *American Anthropologist*, 107 (1) 2005: 78-86.

WEEK 13**Environmentalism as Religion**

Dec. 2

Michael Crichton, "Environmentalism as Religion" Presented as an address to the Commonwealth Club, San Francisco, September 15, 2003.

http://scienceandpublicpolicy.org/commentaries_essays/crichton_three_speeches.html

David Loy, "The Religion of the Market"

<http://jaar.oxfordjournals.org.proxy.library.carleton.ca/content/65/2/275.full.pdf+html>

WEEK 14**Conclusions and looking Forward**

Dec. 9

Bron Taylor, "From the Ground Up: Dark Green Religion and the Environmental Future"

http://www.brontaylor.com/environmental_articles/pdf/Taylor--FromGroundUp.pdf

Noel Salmond, "Julia Butterfly: Environmentalist as Stylite and Ascetic" *Ecotheology: The Journal of Religion, Nature and the Environment*. 11 (4) 2006: 465-480.

[Dec. 11-22 Exam Period]

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL HUMANITIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED

Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “*substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.*”

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100 (12)	B = 73-76 (8)	C - = 60-62 (4)
A = 85-89 (11)	B- = 70-72 (7)	D+ = 57-59 (3)
A- = 80-84 (10)	C+ = 67-69 (6)	D = 53-56 (2)
B+ = 77-79 (9)	C = 63-66 (5)	D - = 50-52 (1)

F	Failure. Assigned 0.0 grade points
ABS	Absent from final examination, equivalent to F
DEF	Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)
FND	Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from **FALL TERM** courses is **DEC. 9, 2013**. The last day to withdraw from **FALL/WINTER (Full Term)** and **WINTER** term courses is **APRIL 8, 2014**.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by **Nov. 8, 2013** for the Fall term and **March 7, 2014** for the Winter term. For more details visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/

PETITIONS TO DEFER

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a **FINAL** assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply a deferral of examination/assignment. If you are applying for a deferral due to illness you will be required to see a physician in order to confirm illness and obtain a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination or assignment deadline. This supporting documentation must specify the date of onset of the illness, the degree of incapacitation, and the expected date of recovery.

If you are applying for a deferral for reasons other than personal illness, please [contact](#) the Registrar’s Office directly for information on other forms of documentation that we accept.

Deferrals of assignments must be supported by confirmation of the assignment due date, for example a copy of the course outline specifying the due date and any documented extensions from the course instructor.

Deferral applications for examination or assignments must be submitted within **5 working days** of the original final exam.

ADDRESSES: (Area Code 613)

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Greek and Roman Studies Office 520-2809	300 Paterson
Religion Office 520-2100	2A39 Paterson
Registrar's Office 520-3500	300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre 520-7850	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre 520-6608/TTY 520-3937	501 Uni-Centre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-2600 Ext. 1125	4 th Floor Library
Learning Support Service 520-2600 Ext 1125	4 th Floor Library