

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY
RELIGION 3100A (FALL 2008)
RELIGIONS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

Prof. Noel A. Salmond
520 2600 ext. 8162
2A38 Paterson Hall
Office Hours: Tue. 2:00 - 3:30 (or by appointment)
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Tuesdays, Thursdays 11:30 - 1:00
Paterson 201

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 Text:

Richard C. Foltz, (ed.). *Worldviews, Religion, and the Environment: A Global Anthology*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2003. Ordered at Haven Books

Religion 3100A Coursepack (remember to bring this to class). Ordered at the Carleton Bookstore

Recommended Additional Texts:

David Kinsley, *Ecology and Religion: Ecological Spirituality in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1995.
ISBN 0-13-138512-7

Daedalus, Fall 2001, "Religion and Ecology: Can the Climate Change?" Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Volume 130, Number 4. Available online at:
<http://www.amacad.org/publications/fall2001/fall2001.aspx> (Or on reserve in hardcopy for this course)

Assignments and Evaluation:

Attendance/Participation. This will be based partially on receipt of in-class written assignments (very brief) conducted from time to time in the classroom or assigned from the previous class. 10%

In-class test. October 16. 20%

Final Examination: Based on assigned readings and lectures. In Examination Period (Dec. 4 - 20). 30%

Term Paper Proposal: Topic choice, initial abstract, and working bibliography of intended paper
Due Nov. 4. 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. 28 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

Earth Ethics

Environmental Values (online)

Environmental History (online)

Ethics and the Environment (online)

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

The Encyclopedia of Religion. (16 volumes) Mircea Eliade (ed.). New York: MacMillan, 1987. (17 vols.)

BL31.E46

On Reserve for RELI 3100A:

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

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-Samuelson. BM 538. H85 J85 2002

[For the Forum on Religion and Ecology see <http://fore.research.yale.edu> . Hyperlinks to other internet resources will be provided on the course website]

SCHEDULE

Note: This schedule may be modified to accommodate guest speakers and class pace and interests. All readings are from the Foltz anthology unless otherwise indicated.

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|----------------|---|
| Thur. Sept. 4 | Introduction to the course and the interface of religion and environment |
| Tue. Sept. 9 | Religion and Nature.
Reading: Richard C. Foltz "Introduction" pp. 1-7
E. Tucker and J. Grim in <i>Daedalus</i> . "Introduction: The Emerging Alliance of World Religions and Ecology"
http://www.amacad.org/publications/fall2001/tucker-grim.aspx |
| Thur. Sept. 11 | Religions of India.
Reading: O.P. Dwivedi "Dharmic Ecology" pp. 119-129
Vasudha Narayanan "Water, Wood, and Wisdom: Ecological Perspectives from the Hindu Tradition" pp. 130-143 |
| Tue. Sept. 16 | Hinduism (Ganga film)
Reading: Kelly D. Alley "Idioms of Degeneracy: Assessing Ganga's Purity and Pollution" pp. 143-160 |
| Thur. Sept. 18 | Hinduism: Gita and Vrindavan
Reading: Bruce M. Sullivan "Theology and Ecology at the Birthplace of Krsna" pp. 413-420 |

- Tue. Sept. 23 Buddhism
 Reading: Rita M. Gross "Toward a Buddhist Environmental Ethic" pp. 163-171
 Ian Harris "Ecological Buddhism?" pp. 171-181
- Thur. Sept. 25 Buddhism
Reading: Stephanie Kaza "To Save All Beings: Buddhist Environmental
 Activism" pp. 193-207
- Tue. Sept. 30 Chinese Religions
Reading: Mary Evelyn Tucker "Ecological Themes in Taoism and
 Confucianism" pp. 217-223
- Thur. Oct. 2 Chinese Religions
Reading: Ole Bruun "*Fengshui* and the Chinese Perception of Nature" pp.
 236-245
- Tue. Oct. 7 Japanese Religions
Reading: Brian Bocking "Japanese Religions" pp. 247-251
 Yuiko Saito "The Japanese Appreciation of Nature" pp. 252-260
 Arne Kalland "Culture in Japanese Nature" pp. 260-267
- Thur. Oct. 9 Biblical Traditions: Judaism
Reading: Aloys Hutterman "Genesis 1 – The Most Misunderstood Part of the
 Bible" pp. 280-289
 Tikva Frymer-Kensky "Ecology in Biblical Perspective" pp. 290-296
 Steven S. Schwarzschild "The Unnatural Jew" pp. 296-306
- Tue. Oct. 14 Judaism
Reading: Arthur Waskow "And the Earth is Filled with the Breath of Life" pp.
 306-317
- Thur. Oct. 16 In-Class Test
- Tue. Oct. 21 Christianity
Reading: Anna Peterson "In and of the World? Christian Theological
 Anthropology and Environmental Ethics" pp. 319-333
 Sallie McFague "An Ecological Christology: Does Christianity Have It?" pp.
 334-342
- Thur. Oct. 23 Christianity: Orthodox and Protestant
Reading: John Chryssavgis "The World of the Icon and Creation: An Orthodox
 Perspective on Ecology and Pneumatology" pp. 342-349
 Calvin DeWitt "The Three Big Questions" pp. 349-355
- Tue. Oct. 28 Christianity: The Lynn White controversy
Reading: Lynn White Jr. "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis" pp. 30-36
- Thur. Oct. 30 Christianity: Contemporary Catholic Statements
Reading: (Coursepack) Pope John Paul II, Message for World Day of Peace, 1

January, 1990.
A Pastoral Letter on the Christian Ecological Imperative from the Social Affairs Commission, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, October 4, 2003.

- Tue. Nov. 4 Islam
Reading: Richard C. Foltz "Islamic Environmentalism in Theory and Practice" pp. 358-365
K.L. Afrasiabi "Toward an Islamic Ecotheology" pp. 366-375
- Thur. Nov. 6 Islam
Reading: Nawal H. Ammar "An Islamic Response to the Manifest Ecological Crisis: Issues of Justice" pp. 376-385
Fazlun M. Khalid "The Disconnected People" pp. 385-391
- Tue. Nov. 11 Indigenous Peoples
Reading: (Coursepack) Harvey Feit, "Hunting and the Quest for Power: The James Bay Cree and Whitemen in the Twentieth Century" in R.B Morrison and C.R. Wilson, eds. *Native Peoples: The Canadian Experience*. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1995. pp. 181-223
Vine Deloria Jr. "Sacred Places and Moral Responsibility" pp. 81-89
- Thur. Nov. 13 Indigenous Peoples
Reading: Chief Seattle's Thoughts <http://www.kyphilom.com/www/seattle.html>
Gary Paul Nabhan "Cultural Parallax in Viewing North American Habitats" pp. 104-111
- Tue. Nov. 18 Religious Environmentalists
Reading: Aldo Leopold excerpts from *A Sand County Almanac* pp. 431-434
Thomas Berry "The New Story" pp. 525-531
- Thur. Nov. 20 Environmentalism as Religion
Reading: Bill Devall and George Sessions "Principles of Deep Ecology" pp. 434-440
Bron Taylor "Earth First! From Primal Spirituality to Ecological Resistance" pp. 447-455
- Tue. Nov. 25 Environmentalism Critiqued as "Religion"
Reading: Michael Crichton "Environmentalism as Religion"
<http://www.crichton-official.com/speech-environmentalism-as-religion.html>
David R. Loy "The Religion of the Market" pp. 66-74
- Thur. Nov. 27 Review
- Dec. 4 – 20 Examination Period (*do not make travel plans within these dates*)

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 “*to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product the work of another without expressly giving credit to another.*” This can include:

- Copying from another person's work without indicating this through appropriate use of quotation marks and footnote citations.
- Lengthy and close paraphrasing of another person's work (i.e. extensive copying interspersed with a few phrases or sentences of your own).
- Submitting written work produced by someone else as if it were your own work (e.g. another student's term paper, a paper purchased from a term paper "factory", materials or term papers downloaded from the Internet, etc.).
- Handing in "*substantially the same piece of work to two or more courses without the prior written permission of the instructors...involved.*" (University Senate)

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 range from a mark of zero for the plagiarized work to a final grade of "F" for the course, and even suspension from all studies or expulsion from the University.

GRADING SYSTEM

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

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

F	Failure. No academic credit
WDN	Withdrawn from the course
ABS	Absent from the final examination
DEF	Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")
FND	"Failed, no Deferral" – assigned when the student is absent from the final exam and has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last date to withdraw from Fall term courses is November 7th, 2008. Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter (full year) and Winter term courses is March 6th, 2009.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

For Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive 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 require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 7, 2008, for December examinations, and March 6, 2009, for April examinations.

For Religious Obligations:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance. (613-520-5622)

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to complete a **final** term paper or write a **final** examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply in writing within five working days to the Registrar's Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES

College of the Humanities 520-2809	300 Paterson
Classics and 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	500 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service 520-6632	4 th floor Library