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)  
nsalmond@ccs.carleton.ca

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:


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

Recommended Additional Texts:


ISBN 0-13-138512-7


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:

On Reserve for RELI 3100A:


Harvard World Religions and Ecology Series:


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


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


[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.

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

Thur. Sept. 11  Religions of India.
   Reading: O.P. Dwivedi “Dharmic Ecology” pp. 119-129

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

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

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

Thur. Nov. 13 Indigenous Peoples
**Reading:** Chief Seattle’s Thoughts  [http://www.kyphilom.com/www/seattle.html](http://www.kyphilom.com/www/seattle.html)

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”
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:

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<td>A+</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure</td>
<td>No academic credit</td>
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<td>WDN</td>
<td>Withdrawn from the course</td>
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<td>ABS</td>
<td>Absent from the final examination</td>
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<td>DEF</td>
<td>Official deferral (see “Petitions to Defer”)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FND</td>
<td>“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.</td>
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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 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 4th floor Library