HRS 155: SPIRIT AND NATURE  Fall 2011

Dr. Maria Jaoudi  
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Office Hours: TU 4:00 – 5:30 pm; M &W 3:00–5:00pm online; and by appointment

Course Description:  
A comparative inquiry into the critical connection between religion and nature. Traditional views of selfhood, the Sacred, morality, and specific ecological issues such as energy consumption will be examined through representative sources in the world’s religious traditions.

Learning Outcomes:  
Students explain, organize, discuss, and interpret the topics listed in the syllabus. Students comprehend the connection between the language of religious traditions and environmental concerns. Issues addressed in Spirit and Nature serve each student well in terms of personal, professional, and global citizenship responsibilities. Regarding the student’s critical thinking, he/she develops analytical evaluative skills, making it possible to interpret diverse views of selfhood, morality, and the sacred. The multicultural range of texts for the course satisfies the department and university’s mission of educating globally informed citizens.

In this online learning course students practice reading and study skills and, with assistance from the professor, improve critical thinking and questioning abilities. With face-to-face and online contact with the professor, and with testing, students will be able to interact, understand and integrate the reading, research, and films for the course into a lifetime of intellectual exploration.

Required Texts:

J. Baird Callicott. Earth’s Insights: A Multicultural Survey of Ecological Ethics from the Mediterranean Basin to the Australian Outback


Gai-fu Feng and Jane English. Tao Te Ching (only the edition with the Jacob Needleman Introduction)

Thich Nhat Hanh. The Sun My Heart

Maria Jaoudi. Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality
Required Films

Students are responsible for Films assigned. Purchase/rent through Netflix, e.g.

A selection of films is available at the Library Media Center.

*Baraka*. Director, Ron Fricke

*Princess Mononoke*. Director, Hayao Miyasaki

*Whale Rider*. Director, Niki Caro

Check HRS 155 SacCT for Reading and Notetaking Strategies

Recommended Texts:

Thomas Berry. *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*

Christopher Chapple. *Nonviolence to Animals, Earth, and Self in Asian Traditions*

J. M. Coetzee. *Elizabeth Costello*

Ursula Goodenough. *The Sacred Depths of Nature*

Maria Jaoudi. *Christian Mysticism: East & West*

John Daido Loori. *Teachings of the Earth: Zen and the Environment*

John Muir. *Travels in Alaska*

Mary Oliver. *New and Selected Poems: Volume I*


The following texts are published through Harvard University Press; new issues are forthcoming in other world traditions:

*Judaism and Ecology*

*Christianity and Ecology*

*Islam and Ecology*
Buddhism and Ecology
Daoism and Ecology
Confucianism and Ecology
Indigenous Tradition and Ecology
Hinduism and Ecology

**Schedule of Classes/Assignments**

**Week 1**

**Running with the Wolves**

Myths and Stories: The Bounty of the Wild Archetype
Singing Over the Bones       Pages 1-20
The Howl: Resurrection of the Wild       21-34
The Beginning Initiation       35-69

**Week 2**

Film: *Baraka* Directed by Ron Fricke
Lecture on SacCT under “Film Resources”

**Earth’s Insights**

Chapter 1  *The Notion of and Need for Environmental Ethics*
Chapter 3  *Environmental Attitudes and Values in South Asian Intellectual Traditions*

**Weeks 3 & 4**

**Running with the Wolves**

The Retrieval of Intuition       Pages 70-110
The Mate: Union with the Other       111-126
Week 5

The Sun My Heart

Introduction
Sunshine and Green Leaves
The Dance of Bees
The Universe in a Speck of Dust
Cutting the Net of Birth & Death
Look Deeply at Your Hand

Week 6

FIRST EXAM Thursday 13 October 12:30am – Friday 14 October 11:00pm
On the First Exam: All the material from Week s1-4

Weeks 6 & 7

Film: Princess Mononoke  Director by Hayao Miyazaki
Lecture on SacCT under “Film Resources”

Running with the Wolves

Life/Death/Life Cycle  Pages 127-163
Belonging as Blessing  164-196
The Wild Flesh  197-212

Earth’s Insights
Chapter 4  Traditional East Asian Deep Ecology
Chapter 5  Ecological Insights in East Asian Buddhism

Weeks 8 & 9

Running with the Wolves

Self-preservation  Pages 213-254
Homing: Returning to Oneself 255-296

Earth’s Insights
Chapter 6 Far Western Environmental Ethics
Chapter 7 South American Eco-Eroticism
Chapter 8 African Biocommunitarianism and Australian Dreamtime

Week 10

MIDTERM EXAM Thursday 3 November 12:30am – Friday 4 November 11:00pm
On the Second Exam: All the material from Week 5-9

Weeks 10 & 11

Tao Te Ching
Read the entire text including an in-depth study of Jacob Needleman’s Introduction

Running with the Wolves

Clear Water: Nourishing the Creative Life Pages 297-333

Week 12

Running with the Wolves

Heat: Retrieving a Sacred Sexuality Pages 334-345
The Boundaries of Rage and Forgiveness 346-373

Week 13

Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality

Chapter 3 The Jewish Mystical View: The Kabbalah
Chapter 6 Religion and Ecology: Hildegard of Bingen
Chapter 7 Islamic Love Mysticism: Rabi’a and Rumi
Earth’s Insights
Chapter 2   *The Historical Roots of Western European Environmental Attitudes and Values*

**Week 14**

**Running with the Wolves**

Battle Scars  
Finding Love  

Pages 374-386  
387-456

Earth’s Insights
Chapter 9   *A Postmodern Evolutionary-Ecological Environmental Ethic*

**Week 15**

**Film:**  *Whale Rider*   Directed by Niki Caro
Lecture on SacCT under “Film Resources”

Earth’s Insights
Chapter 10   *Traditional Environmental Ethics in Action*

**Week 16**

**FINAL EXAM**   Monday 12 December 12:30am – Tuesday 13 December 11:00pm
On the Final Exam: All the material from Week s10-15

*N.B.* SacCT Server maintenance is every Tuesday morning 12:01am – 6:30am. Therefore, the exam will not be available during this time. Please plan accordingly.

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Course Policy for Dr. Jaoudi’s HRS Courses
Intellectual exploration is encouraged: The professor is available for additionally scheduled Office Hours for student reflections, discussions, and questions on the reading and film assignments.

Students are responsible for reading assignments, lecture materials, exams, and films, depending on the class syllabus.

Reminder: An online class demands even more self-motivation and discipline than a face-to-face class. For example, there is no professor standing in person reminding students about an exam; students have to remind themselves of the details of the class conveyed through the syllabus and SacCT. Because many of us are frequently online, there may be an automatic reflex to peruse written instructions. Therefore, be mindful, the online class is different from browsing the net. Enjoy your studies, and be aware of the fact that student success is determined online primarily by student commitment and circumspection.

There are three on-line exams; see the Syllabus Schedule. The exams are not cumulative. For example, exam #2 begins where the previous exam ends.

Each on-line exam contains multiple choice and true/false questions based on ideas and vocabulary obtained from notes on lectures, class discussions, hand-outs, reading assignments, and films, depending on the course content. Each exam contains 30-35 questions. Please check your Syllabus on SacCT for the exact on-line exam times and dates.

For one-on-one walk-in and by appointment tutoring help with SacCT, contact the Student Technology Center at stc@csus.edu/telephone (916) 278-2364/Academic Computing Resources building Room 3007.

Students are required to take the Exams in the Student Technology Center insuring assistance with any technology issues. If a student does not take the Exams at STC, he/she takes full responsibility to resolve any technical issues on their own. Do not contact the professor concerning any technological problems, if you did not take the exam in the Student Technology Center.

It is the student’s responsibility to remember answers given to the online test questions, in order to benefit from the responses after the exam.
There are no make-up exams; if an exam is not taken, the student is automatically assigned an F grade. Therefore, make sure the exact dates and times of exams are duly noted.

There is no extra credit.

At no time is it appropriate to ask the professor to increase a grade in order to accommodate an individual desire for a higher GPA without matching grade performance.

A student may drop themselves from the class during the official student drop period. After the official student drop period ends, any drops, withdrawals, or incompletes, will only be considered for faculty signature, if there is documented evidence of an unforeseen emergency, death, or surgery. Invalid reasons include: Not being able to keep up with the reading, receiving a poor grade on an exam(s), work schedule, moving to an apartment, or going on vacation.

Students with disabilities who require special accommodation must provide disability documentation at SSWD, Lassen Hall 1008 (916) 278-6955. Students with special testing needs must provide the appropriate forms at least two weeks prior to an exam in order to schedule with the Testing Center.

In HRS 152, HRS 155, and HRS 183, each exam is 1/3 of the grade.