JAOUIDI-HRS155-SUMMER14

HRS 155: SPIRIT AND NATURE  Summer 2014

Dr. Maria Jaoudi
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Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00-11:30am; T & R 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:

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

Andrew Linzey, Why Animal Suffering Matters: Philosophy, Theology, and Practical Ethics
Required Films

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

Students are responsible for films assigned to be purchased/rented:

Baraka. Director, Ron Fricke

Princess Mononoke. Director, Hayao Miyasaki

Speciesism: The Movie. Director, Mark Devries

Whale Rider. Director, Niki Caro

Check HRS 155 SacCT for Reading and Note-taking 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

John Grim and Mary Evelyn Tucker. Religion and Ecology

Maria Jaoudi. Christian Mysticism: East & West

Willis Jenkins. The Future of Ethics: Sustainability, Social Justice, and Religious Creativity

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

Wangari Maathai. Replenishing the Earth: Spiritual Values for Healing Ourselves and the World

John Muir, Travels in Alaska

Bron Taylor, Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature
The following texts are published through Harvard University Press:

- 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

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

**Week 2**

**Running with the Wolves**

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

**Week 3**
FIRST EXAM  
Wednesday 30 July 12:30am – Thursday 31 July 11:00pm  
On the First Exam:  All the material from Weeks 1-2

Film:  *Princess Mononoke*  
Director by Hayao Miyazaki  
Lecture on SacCT under “Film Study Guides”

Running with the Wolves

Life/Death/Life Cycle  
Belonging as Blessing  
The Wild Flesh  
Self-preservation  
Homing: Returning to Oneself

Week 4

MIDTERM EXAM  
Wednesday 6 August 12:30am – Thursday 7 August 11:00pm  
On the Second Exam:  All the material from Week 3

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

Why Animal Suffering Matters

Introduction-Chapter 2

Week 5

THIRD EXAM  
Wednesday 13 August 12:30am – Thursday 14 August 11:00pm  
Only the books:  *The Sun My Heart* and  *Why Animal Suffering Matters*  Pages 1-72
Tao Te Ching
Read the entire text including an in-depth study of Jacob Needleman’s Introduction

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

Running with the Wolves

Clear Water: Nourishing the Creative Life Pages 297-333
Heat: Retrieving a Sacred Sexuality 334-345
The Boundaries of Rage and Forgiveness 346-373
Battle Scars 374-386
Finding Love 387-456

Film: Whale Rider Directed by Niki Caro
Lecture on SacCT under “Film Study Guides”

Week 6

Running with the Wolves

The Deep Song Pages 456-461
The Wolf’s Eyelash 462-465
Story as Medicine 466-473

Why Animal Suffering Matters

Chapters 3-6 Pages 75-167

Film: Speciesism: The Movie Directed by Mark Devries
Available to rent for 1.99$ at vimeo.com
FINAL EXAM
Wednesday 20 August 12:30am – Thursday 21 August 11:00pm
On the Final Exam: All the material from Week 5-6.
Remember, The Sun My Heart was on the Third Exam.

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 four 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.
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:
Students are required to take exams in a University Computer Lab
http://www.csus.edu/irt/Labs/locations.html insuring assistance with any
technology issues. If a student does not take the exams in a University
Computer Lab, he/she takes full responsibility to resolve any technical
issues on their own. Keep in mind that this means the student is
responsible for following instructions and a reliable internet connection.
If a student’s connection fails, there is no second chance to take the
exam.
Do not contact the professor concerning any technological problems -
please contact the Service Desk (ARC 2005) at servicedesk@csus.edu or
278-7337.

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 1/4 of the grade.