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)

Ursula Goodenough. The Sacred Depths of Nature

Thich Nhat Hanh. The Sun My Heart

Maria Jaoudi. Christian & Islamic Spirituality: Sharing a Journey
**Required Films**

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

**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*

Maria Jaoudi. *Christian Mysticism: East & West*

Maria Jaoudi. *Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality*

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

The Sacred Depths of Nature

Running with the Wolves

Myths and Stories: The Bounty of the Wild Archetype
Singing Over the Bones
The Howl: Resurrection of the Wild
The Beginning Initiation

Week 2

The Sacred Depths of Nature

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

Weeks 3 & 4

The Sacred Depths of Nature

Running with the Wolves

The Retrieval of Intuition
The Mate: Union with the Other
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

Earth’s Insights

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

Week 6

FIRST EXAM  Thursday 7 October 12:30am – Friday 8 October 11:00pm
On the First Exam:  All the material from Week 1-4

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

Week 10

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

Weeks 10 & 11

Tao Te Ching  In-depth study of Jacob Needleman’s Introduction

Running with the Wolves

Clear Water: Nourishing the Creative Life  Pages 297-333

Week 12

Tao Te Ching

Running with the Wolves

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

Week 13

Christian and Islamic Spirituality: Sharing a Journey

Introduction
The Way of Love
The Need for Purification
Transformation
Union
A God-Centered Ecology
Afterword

**Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality**
Recommended Reading, especially, 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 Pages 374-386
Finding Love 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”

Running with the Wolves

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

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

**Week 16**

**FINAL EXAM** Thursday 16 December 12:30am – Friday 17 December 11:00pm
On the Final Exam: All the material from Week 10-15

**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.

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.

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.**

There is no extra credit.

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.