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:
By the end of the course, students should be able to explain, organize, discuss, and interpret, the topics listed in the syllabus. Each student will comprehend the language of religious traditions in the context of environmental concerns, whatever the student’s major field of study. The issues addressed by the Spirit and Nature course should serve each student well in terms of personal, professional, and global citizenship responsibilities. Regarding the student’s critical thinking, he/she will develop analytical evaluative skills, making it possible to interpret diverse views of selfhood, morality, and the sacred. The multicultural range of texts for the course will also satisfy the department and university’s mission of educating students to be globally informed.

Required Texts:

*Used books will help you defray the cost.*

Clarissa Pinkola Estés. *Women Who Run with the Wolves*  
(latest edition only)

Thich Nhat Hanh. *The Sun My Heart*

Maria Jaoudi. *Christian & Islamic Spirituality: Sharing a Journey*  
(The required Chapter 5 is available on-line. See, Week 11 on this syllabus)

Barry McDonald, Editor. *Seeing God Everywhere: Essays on Nature and the Sacred*

Ed McGaa. *Nature’s Way: Native Wisdom for Living in Balance with the Earth*

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

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

Gai-fu Feng and Jane English. *Tao Te Ching*

Ed McGaa. *Mother Earth Spirituality: Native American Paths to Healing Ourselves and Our World*

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*

Joel Primack and Nancy Abrams. *The View from the Center of the Universe*

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

**No electronics:**

This includes cell phones and laptops which must be **Off** and out of sight during class.

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**Schedule of Classes/Reading Assignments**

(Films may vary)

- ☑ Bring assigned books to class ☑
Week 1  Seeing God Everywhere; pages xxi-xxiv

Week 2  Film: Selections from Baraka. Director: Ron Fricke
            Seeing God Everywhere; pages 227-240
            Nature’s Way; pages Introduction-19
            Lecture on Daoism

Week 3  Seeing God Everywhere; pages 29-52/73-102/171-192
            Nature’s Way; pages 20-154

Week 4  Nature’s Way; pages 155-205

Research day – No class            Thursday 19 February 2009
(Begin research paper Introduction and Nature’s Way)

Week 5  Seeing God Everywhere; pages 1-16/17-28
            The Sun My Heart; pages vi-49
            Nature’s Way; pages 206-274

Week 6  Nature’s Way; Review Introduction-274
            The Sun My Heart; pages 50-133

Week 7  Film: Princess Mononoke. Director: Hayao Miyazaki

IN-CLASS WRITING REVIEW         Tuesday, 10 March 2009
(Remember: Do not be late)

Week 8  The Sun My Heart; Reflections vi-133
            Nature’s Way; Reflections Introduction-274
            Women who run with the Wolves; pages 1-126

Research paper – No class        Thursday 19 March 2009
(Continue writing the research paper on Seeing God Everywhere and The Sun My Heart)

Week 9  Seeing God Everywhere; Poetry: Table of Contents/p. ix
            Women who run with the Wolves; pages 127-254

Week 10 Women who run with the Wolves; continue pages 127-254
            Seeing God Everywhere; pages 241-252

Week 11 TBA Film selections from: The Qatsi Trilogy. Director: Godfrey Reggio
            Women who run with the Wolves; pages 255-346
            Seeing God Everywhere; pages 269-278
Research Day - No class Thursday 16 April 2009
(Continue writing research paper on Women who run with the Wolves)

Week 12 Women who run with the Wolves; continue pages 347-473
Seeing God Everywhere; pages 73-102

Week 13 Film: The Color of Paradise. Director: Majid Majidi
Christian & Islamic Spirituality “A God-Centered Ecology
Chapter 5 (also available on-line under the title Topics, click
on the link entitled “Caring for the Earth.” Under M. Jaoudi
click on “A God-Centered Ecology” at:
www.gratefulness.org

Week 14 Women who run with the Wolves; continue pages 347-473
Seeing God Everywhere; pages 109-132

Week 15 Women who run with the Wolves; continue pages 347-473

IN-CLASS WRITING REVIEW Thursday, 14 May
(Remember: Do not be late)

RESEARCH PAPER DUE

Undergraduate Research Paper

Please read carefully the California State University’s Advisory Standards for Writing:
www.csus.edu/acaf/umanual/advstndrds.htm

No late papers accepted.

Write a total of at least 7 pages on how Spirit and Nature have been envisioned
throughout the semester in our class reading assignments. Additional pages are optional
and encouraged to voice your own reflective research. You are responsible for all the
reading assignments, even though we may not have time to examine every page during
class.

Annotate your paper with quotations from the required texts. Include a title page,
footnotes, conclusion, and Bibliography.

Research Paper Due: Thursday, 14 May

Title page
Introduction
Nature’s Way
Seeing God Everywhere
The Sun My Heart
Women who run with the Wolves
A God-Centered Ecology
Conclusion
Bibliography

Length is yours to decide
1 page
2 pages
1 page
2 pages
1 page
Length is yours to decide