

JAUDI-HRS155-SP15

HRS 155: SPIRIT AND NATURE

Spring 2015

Dr. Maria Jaoudi

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Office Hours: MW 11:00-Noon; TR 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:

OPEN BOOK EXAMS

Be sure to have your books and downloaded essays annotated and available for each exam

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

Paul Waldau. A Communion of Subjects: Religion, Science & Ethics

Check HRS 155 SacCT for Reading and Note-taking Strategies

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

Speciesism: The Movie. Director, Mark Devries

Recommended Texts:

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

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

John Muir. Travels in Alaska

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

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

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

Film: *Whale Rider* Directed by Niki Caro
Lecture on SacCT on home page: Film Study Guides

THE SCHEDULE OF THE FRIST EXAM AND MIDTERM IS IN ORDER FOR STUDENTS TO HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO STUDY DURING THE EARLIER WEEKS OF CLASS; TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS EXTRA TIME TO STUDY

Weeks 2 & 3

Tao Te Ching

Including Jacob Needleman's Introduction

Week 4

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*

On SacCT: Print and study the link, Hildegard of Bingen: The Many Realities of Consciousness

Print and study the articles on the link, A God-Centered Ecology on http://www.gratefulness.org/t/motherearth_links.htm

Week 5 - 7

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 7

FIRST EXAM OPEN BOOK

Wednesday 11 March 12:30am – Thursday 12 March 11:00pm

On the First Exam: All the material from Weeks 1-4

Week 9

MIDTERM EXAM OPEN BOOK

Wednesday 1 April 12:30am – Thursday 2 April 11:00pm

On the Midterm Exam: All the material from Weeks 5-7; specifically, only the book, The Sun My Heart

Weeks 8 - 11

A Communion of Subjects

Heritage	Pages 1-39
Loneliness and Presence	
Introduction	
Traditional Views of Religion and Ecology	
Seeing the Terrain We Walk: Features of the Contemporary Landscape	40-64
A Jewish Vision	81-90
A Christian Approach	132-145
“Oh that I could be a bird & fly, I would rush to the Beloved”:	170-175
Birds in Islamic Mystical Poetry	
Nature in Art	439-457
Ethical Implications for Science	461-504

Film: *Baraka* Directed by Ron Fricke

Lecture on SacCT on home page: Film Study Guides

Week 11

THIRD EXAM OPEN BOOK

Wednesday 15 April 12:30 am – Thursday 16 April 11:00 pm

All material from Weeks 8-11

Week 12

A Communion of Subjects

Ethical Implications for Science	Pages 506-543
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Film: *Speciesism: The Movie* Directed by Mark Devries

Available to rent for 1.99\$ at vimeo.com

Week 13

A Communion of Subjects

Pastoral Ideals in an Industrial World
Values, Profits, and Ethics

Pages 547-582

Weeks 14 - 15

A Communion of Subjects

Contemporary Challenges
Law, Social Justice, and the Environment
Global Stewardship
Pushing Environmental Justice to a Natural Limit

Pages 585-656

A Communion of Subjects and Multiplicity of Intelligences
The Dance of Awe

Film: *Princess Mononoke* Director by Hayao Miyazaki
Lecture on SacCT home page: Film Study Guides

Week 16

FINAL EXAM OPEN BOOK

** Final exam dates are different than regular exams

Monday 18 May 12:30am – Wednesday 20 May 11:00pm

On the Final Exam: All the material from Weeks 12-15

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.

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 online exams; see the Syllabus Schedule. The exams are not cumulative. For example, exam #2 begins where the previous exam ends.

Each open book online 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. To repeat, please take the exams on campus to insure you do not receive a zero on an 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 note 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 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.