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 Jacob Needleman’s 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*

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 Pages ix-130

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 Resources”

Week 2

The Sacred Depths of Nature Pages 131-174

Running with the Wolves

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

FIRST EXAM Thursday 22 July 12:30am – Friday 23 July 11:00pm
On the First Exam: All the material from Weeks1-2

Week 3

The Sun My Heart: From Mindfulness to Insight Contemplation
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

Running with the Wolves

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

Film: Princess Mononoke  Director by Hayao Miyazaki
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
Chapter 4 Traditional East Asian Deep Ecology
Chapter 5 Ecological Insights in East Asian Buddhism

Week 4

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

MIDTERM EXAM
Thursday 5 August 12:30am – Friday 6 August 11:00pm
On the Midterm Exam:  All the material from Week 3-4

Week 5
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
Heat: Retrieving a Sacred Sexuality 334-345
The Boundaries of Rage and Forgiveness 346-373

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 6

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

Running with the Wolves

Battle Scars Pages 374-386
Finding Love 387-456
The Deep Song 456-461
Story as Medicine 466-473
Earth’s Insights
Chapter 9  A Postmodern Evolutionary-Ecological Environmental Ethic
Chapter 10  Traditional Environmental Ethics in Action

FINAL EXAM  Thursday 19 August 12:30am – Friday 20 August 11:00pm
On the Final Exam: All the material from Weeks 5-6

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 is 30-35 minutes long with 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.