**HRS 155: SPIRIT AND NATURE**

**Winter Session 2011**

Dr. Maria Jaoudi  
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Office Hours: TU 11:00-1:00pm; M &W 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:**

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)

Thich Nhat Hanh. *The Sun My Heart*

Maria Jaoudi. *Medieval and Renaissance Spirituality*
**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*

Clarrisa Pinkola Estés. *Women [& Men] Who Run with the Wolves*

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*

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*
**Schedule of Classes/Assignments**

**Week 1**

Film: *Baraka* Directed by Ron Fricke  
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*

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

**Week 2**

**FIRST EXAM**  Monday 10 January 12:30am – Tuesday 11 January 11:00pm  
On the First Exam: All the material from Week 1  
N.B. SacCT Server maintenance is every Tuesday morning 12:01am – 6:30am. Therefore, the exam will not be available during this time. Please plan accordingly.

Film: *Princess Mononoke*  Director by Hayao Miyazaki  
Lecture on SacCT under “Film Resources”
Earth’s Insights
Chapter 4  Traditional East Asian Deep Ecology
Chapter 5  Ecological Insights in East Asian Buddhism
Chapter 6  Far Western Environmental Ethics
Chapter 7  South American Eco-Eroticism
Chapter 8  African Biocommunitarianism and Australian Dreamtime

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

Running with the Wolves

Life/Death/Life Cycle  Pages 127-163
Belonging as Blessing  164-196
The Wild Flesh  197-212
Self-preservation  213-254
Homing: Returning to Oneself  255-296

MIDTERM EXAM  Thursday 13 January 12:30am – Friday 14 January 11:00pm
On the Midterm Exam:  All the material from Week 2

Week 3

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: Rabî’a and Rumi

Earth’s Insights
Chapter 2  The Historical Roots of Western European Environmental Attitudes and Values
Chapter 9  A Postmodern Evolutionary-Ecological Environmental Ethic
Chapter 10  Traditional Environmental Ethics in Action

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

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

FINAL EXAM  Thursday 20 January 12:30am – Friday 21 January 11:00pm
On the Final Exam:  All the material from Week 3

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 30-40 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.