Instructor: Lorraine M. Fish, Ph.D.
Credits: 3
Course #: PSY 240.01
CRN#: 1196
Class will meet: 1pm, Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays
Room:
Contact Information:
   Email: lfish@northland.edu
   Telephone#: (715) 682 1397
   Office Hours: Tuesdays 9-12 & 1-3 & Thursdays from 9-11 & 1-3

Class Description: In this course students will have the opportunity to discover intellectually, as well as experientially, the fundamental relationship between spirituality and the natural environment. Embracing a diversity of beliefs and values, this class seeks to give the student a deep understanding of the intrinsic bond between self, spirit and nature. Topics covered will include Western history, indigenous spiritual values, ecopsychology, and new paradigm thinking in science, philosophy, and religion.

Learning Objectives:
1. To gain knowledge and understanding of what it means to have a spiritual relationship with nature.
2. To understand how self and nature are intrinsically connected – including a brief historical account of how humans have interacted with nature in Western culture.
3. To have an appreciation of how new paradigms in science and philosophy that are informing us about self, other and nature.
4. To become familiar with ways that can assist having a spiritual reconnection with the natural world.

Required Texts:
3. A third required book will be of the student’s choice (from a list) and supplied by instructor.

Resources:
http://www.earthlight.org/
http://www.spiritwheel.com/specology.htm
http://www.findhorn.org/index.php?tz=300
**Course Assignments:** for a total of 500 points

1. **Five 3 \( \text{page} \) Reflection/Discussion Papers: 20 points** each for a total of 100 points – these papers should contain the student’s thoughts & ideas about what they are reading and are designed to initiate discussion on particular themes.

2. **Spiritual Sense of Place Experience: 100 points** – Students will be expected to choose a place in nature (can be with an indoor plant) that they feel comfortable about being in daily (or at least 3 times a week) for about 10-15 minutes. They will get to know this place or plant deeply and keep a journal of their feelings & experiences. This journal will be handed in at the end of the semester.

3. **A 5 \( \text{page} \) Book Summary Paper: 100 points** – students will choose a book from a list provided & read this during the semester. At the end of the semester students will write a 5 page essay about the book they have read – including a synopsis, thoughts & feelings, and any important connections between this text and other course material.

4. **A Creative Expression of a spiritual connection with nature & Presentation: 100 points** – 50% of the points are for the creative piece & the other 50% is for the presentation. **The Creative Piece** – could be a poem (written by the student), a painting, a sculpture, or a photographic piece (all creative pieces must be made during this course, please). **The Presentation:** a 15 minute presentation on your creative piece and how it portrays your spiritual connection with nature.

5. **Class Participation: 100 points** – there will be 5 discussion group days for which you will receive 10 points each. The remaining 50 points are for at least 85% attendance (37 classes out of 44). 1 point will be deducted per each day missed past the 7\(^{\text{th}}\) missed class. If you are attending athletic events during this semester please let me know ASAP. Students who participate in athletic events are not penalized for missed classes. But if it is a discussion group day 10 points will be deducted for everyone, regardless. However, I will provide opportunities to make up these points.
~ Course Policies ~

**Academic Problems:** It is important to me that you succeed in this class. If you have questions or concerns about the subject matter or your performance, please come see me as soon as possible. Do not wait until the end of the semester, when it is too late to see me about academic difficulties. If I discover that you are having problems in this class you will be officially notified by me and expected to follow a course of action to remedy the problem(s). Additionally, there are resources on campus that may be helpful to you. Tutoring is available to students through the Student Life Office – where you can also get a wide range of services such as counseling & career information.

**Missing Class:** It is your responsibility to find out from other students what you have missed when you are absent. If you stop attending the class, you must withdraw yourself from the class. The instructor will not automatically drop you after the first week of class. This means that if you do not withdraw officially, you will earn a 0.0 in the class. Also, please be advised that if you sleep through class you will be marked as absent.

**Punctuality:** You should arrive on time for class and stay the entire period (no packing up before the class ends as this disrupts the class). Let me know before class begins if you must leave early or will be late for a future class.

**Student Conduct/Academic Integrity:** All students should engage in a behavior that is compatible with the educational mission of Northland College. It is your responsibility to do your own work and avoid even the appearance of academic dishonesty. Conduct that is contrary to Northland’s policies (such as plagiarism, cheating, facilitating someone else's academic dishonesty, etc.) risk failure, suspension, and/or expulsion.

**Respect:** You are expected to listen carefully and respectfully to both the instructor and other students’ contributions and questions in class. Side discussions and comments are disrespectful of everyone and distracting. Studying or working on other course material is not acceptable behavior in my class. Language, comments or actions that are racist, sexist, or homophobic (or otherwise in bad taste) will not be tolerated. Students who do not conduct themselves in a respectful manner may be asked to leave the classroom.

**Electronic devices:** The use of any electronic devices (except taking notes on a laptop) is not allowed in my classroom – that includes cell phones & text messaging, reading email, or surfing the internet (unless it is appropriate to the classroom discussion). Any interruptions due to these devices during class will not be tolerated.

**Special Needs:** Students with disabilities who need special course or seating accommodations, have emergency medical information, or require special arrangements for building evacuation, should contact the instructor within the first two weeks of class. Students requesting accommodations may be asked to provide documentation of their disability and work with the Student Life Office.

**Email:** Since I often send out group class emails, students must check their Northland email regularly, at least once a day.
Your final grade will be assigned in accordance with the letter grading scale as shown below.

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*CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF BEFORE CLASS BEGINS*

Feel free to contact the instructor if you have any concerns at all about this syllabus, the schedule, or the assignments. It is always better to speak up sooner rather than later.

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~ Course Outline ~

- **Week One – 9/9-9/11**: Introduction to each other & the course  
  Read: Preface in the Hayden text & Authors Note in the Handelsman text  
  Wednesday:  
  Friday:  

- **Week Two – 9/14-9/18**: The Split: How/Why Nature and Spirit Became Separated  
  Read: Hayden: Chapter One & Handelsman: Chapter One & Handouts  
  Monday:  
  Wednesday:  
  Friday:  

  Read: Hayden: Chapter Two & Handelsman: Chapter Two & Handouts  
  Monday:  
  Wednesday: Discussion Groups & 1st paper due  
  Friday:  

- **Week Four – 9/28 – 10/2**: Western & Eastern Traditions (Transcendence)  
  Read: Hayden: Chapter Three & Handelsman: Chapter Three & Handouts  
  Monday:  
  Wednesday:  
  Friday:  

- **Week Five – 10/5-10/9**: Western & Eastern Traditions (Transcendence)  
  Read: Hayden: Chapter Four & Handelsman: Chapter Four  
  Monday:  
  Wednesday: Discussion Groups & 2nd paper due  
  Friday:  

- **Week Six – 10/12-10/16**: Native/Indigenous Religious/Spiritual Beliefs (Immanence)  
  Read: Hayden: Chapter Five, Handelsman: Chapter Five  
  Monday:  
  Wednesday:  
  Friday:
- **Week Seven – 10/21 – 10/23**: Shamanism, Ritual, & Spiritual Practices (Immanence)
  - **Read**: Handelsman: Chapter Six & Handouts
  - **Monday**: Discussion Groups & 3rd paper due
  - **Friday**:

- **Week Eight – 10/26-10/30**: Women, Nature, and the Goddess
  - **Read**: Handelsman: Chapter Seven & Eight & Handouts
  - **Monday**:
  - **Wednesday**:
  - **Friday**: “Who Were the Witches?”

- **Week Nine – 11/2-11/7**: Ecopsychology
  - **Read**: Hayden: Chapter Six & Handelsman: Chapter Nine & Handouts
  - **Monday**:
  - **Wednesday**: Discussion Groups & 4th paper due
  - **Friday**:

  - **Read**: Hayden: Chapter Seven & Handouts
  - **Monday**:
  - **Wednesday**:
  - **Friday**:

- **Week Eleven – 11/16-11/20**: Synthesis
  - **Read**: Handelsman: Chapter Ten & Handouts
  - **Monday**:
  - **Wednesday**: Discussion Groups & 5th paper due
  - **Friday**:

- **Week Twelve – 11/23**: TBA
  - **Monday**:
  - **Wednesday**: BREAK - THANKSGIVING
  - **Friday**: BREAK - THANKSGIVING
➢ **Week Thirteen – 11/30-12/1**: Presentations on Creative Piece  
  Monday:  
  Wednesday:  
  **Friday**: Book Summary Paper Due

➢ **Week Fourteen – 12/7-12/11**: Presentations on Creative Piece  
  Monday:  
  Wednesday:  
  Friday:

➢ **Week Fifteen – 12/14-12/18**: Presentations on Creative Piece  
  Monday:  
  Wednesday:  
  Friday:

**PLEASE NOTE**: because of circumstances beyond the instructor’s control, the instructor reserves the right to change anything on this syllabus or course schedule.