

RELIGION, ECOLOGY AND SELF



R202 Spring 2001
TR 2:30-3:45, M 242

David L. Haberman
Sycamore Hall 203
855-8894
email: dhaberma



"Ecology and spirituality are fundamentally connected, because deep ecological awareness, ultimately, is spiritual awareness."
--Fritjof Capra

This course is designed as an introduction to the ecological and spiritual movement known as "Deep Ecology." The essence of Deep Ecology is to ask deeper questions. We face many problems in the world today; many argue that these problems are deeply interconnected. Deep Ecology is one response to global problems. It seeks fundamental transformations in our views of world and self, claiming that there is no ontological divide in the forms of life. Deep Ecology aims for an environmentally sustainable and spiritually rich way of life that recognizes the intrinsic value of all life forms and strives for the reenchancement of the world. In this course we will approach Deep Ecology from a Religious Studies perspective that investigates traditions in terms of their thought, action, and communities.

DATES, TOPICS, AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Introductory Considerations

First Week

January 9: Introductions
--begin Jenkins, *Balance Point*

January 11: The Scope of the Ecological Crisis
--continue reading *Balance Point*

Second Week

January 16: The Balance Point
--discussion of *Balance Point*

January 18: Forms of Religious Expression
--begin Swimme & Berry, *The Universe Story*



Creation Myths**Third Week**

January 23-25: The Universe Story
 --finish *The Universe Story*
 --film: The Cosmos

**Philosophical Foundations****Fourth Week**

January 30-February 1: Arne Naess
 --*The Deep Ecology Movement*, pp. 3-63

Fifth Week

February 6-8: The Ecological Self
 --*The Deep Ecology Movement*, pp. 67-163

Sixth Week

February 13: Deep Ecology and Feminism
 --*The Deep Ecology Movement*, pp. 169-218

February 16: Further Elaborations
 --*The Deep Ecology Movement*, pp. 237-280

The Greening of Religions**Seventh Week**

February 20: Religion as the Problem
 --Lynn White, "The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis" (handout)
 February 22: Religion as an Ecological Resource
 --begin McFague, *The Body of God*

Eighth Week

February 27-March 1: Considering Protestant Christianity
 --finish *The Body of God*

Ninth Week:

March 6-8: Recent Developments in Hinduism and Buddhism

*** * * SPRING BREAK * * ***
 (Opportunity for a Deep Ecological Encounter)

