SYLLABUS

COURSE: ANTH/REL 444 SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY (Theory)  3 credits

TIME: Spring 2024

PLACE: University of Hawai`i @ Manoa, Webster 113

INSTRUCTOR:
Dr. Les Sponsel Professor Emeritus
Department of Anthropology @ UHM, Saunders Hall 321
Email: sponsel@hawaii.edu
Websites: https://anthropology.manoa.hawaii.edu/leslie-sponsel/
http://spiritualecology.info

ORIENTATION

“In a world where religion plays so central a role in social, political, and economic events, as well as in the lives of communities and individuals, there is a critical need for ongoing reflection upon and understanding of religious traditions, issues, questions, and values,” “Why Study Religion?” American Academy of Religion 2024, http://www.studyreligion.org/site/about.html, www.aarweb.org).

“The notion that fact can be cleanly separated from value is absurd. The notion that our understanding of the material world can be cleanly separated from our experience of the spiritual world is impossible. The magisteria [science and religion] are mixed, shuffled, irremediably joined” Bruno Guiderdoni, astrophysicist at the Observatory of Lyon, France, quoted in Science and Spirit May-June 2006 17(3):59.

“Contemporary spiritualities combine practices of particular religious traditions with concern for the global situation and the life of the planet.... are pluralistic and diverse; they search for a global ethic, are concerned with ecology, encourage the cultivation of healthy relationships, support feminism, and pursue peace....
Given the increasing scholarly attention in conferences and publications to the role of spirituality in contemporary culture, it is clear that the academy has recognized spirituality as a subject of study both within and independent of the study of religion,” Mary N. MacDonald, 2005, “Spirituality,” The Encyclopedia of Religion (Second Edition), Lindsay Jones, Editor-in-Chief, New York, NY: Thomson Gale 13:8719, 8721.

“... the upsurge of Spirit is the only plausible way to stop the ecological destruction of our planet. Even people who have no interest in a communal solution to the distortions in our lives will have to face up [to] this ecological reality. Unless we transform our relationship with nature, we will destroy the preconditions for human life on this planet,” Rabbi Michael Lerner, 2000, Spirit Matters, Charlottesville, VA: Hampton Roads Publishing Company, Inc., p. 138.

“The Environmental crisis requires changes not only in public policy, but in individual behavior. The historical record makes clear that religious teaching, example, and leadership are powerfully able to influence personal conduct and commitment. As scientists, many of us have had profound experience of awe and reverence before the universe. We understand that what is regarded as sacred is more likely to be treated with care and respect. Our planetary home should be so regarded. Efforts to safeguard and cherish the environment need to be infused with a vision of the sacred,” from “Preserving the Earth: An Appeal for Joint Commitment in Science and Religion,” Global Forum, Moscow, January 1990.

“The Universe is a communion of subjects, not a collection of objects,” Thomas Berry, 2006, Evening Thoughts: Reflecting on Earth as Sacred Community, p. 17.

Spiritual ecology refers to scientific and scholarly studies of the vast, complex, diverse, and dynamic arena at the interfaces of religions and spiritualities with environments, ecologies, and environmentalisms. The term spiritual ecology is used simply because it is most inclusive, referring to individual as well as organizational ideas and actions in this arena. Also, it parallels the names of other major approaches within ecological/environmental anthropology, like historical ecology and political ecology. Although it has deep roots as a scientific and scholarly pursuit, spiritual ecology is a most exciting, positive, and promising new interdisciplinary, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinary frontier
for research, teaching, and practice, growing exponentially since the 1990s. (As one indicator, a Google.com search for spiritual ecology on January 3, 2024, yielded 24,900,000 results, although, of course, of varying relevance and quality).

Through PowerPoint lectures and publications, the instructor will discuss his own research on various aspects of this subject, including his long-term field research on the relationships among Buddhism, sacred places, ecology, and biodiversity conservation in Thailand, in recent decades focusing on sacred caves.

This course is cross-listed as Religion 444 Spiritual Ecology. Students enrolled in the Religion section should use the Anthropology section of the Laulima course website.

**FORMAT**

The course material will be surveyed through PowerPoint lectures; required readings; documentary films viewed in class; and recommended readings, films, and websites listed in the Schedule below. A unique feature of this particular course is its experiential as well as intellectual exploration of spiritual ecology, this accomplished through very carefully selected documentary films. Credits at the end of the films identify the numerous and diverse individuals and organizations engaged in their production, thereby indicating their extraordinary value. Another unique feature of this course is your intellectual journal, as explained below.

Every student is required to be open-minded as well as courteous and professional in class. Anyone can say and write anything as long as it is relevant, concise, and polite. Being concise is most important because, as revealed in the Schedule, there is a wealth of course material to cover in the very limited time available. This course is necessarily selective, only sampling the huge amount of material on this and related subjects.

The ideals of academic freedom and democracy apply in this class, even if they are restricted and/or endangered elsewhere. Whereas many environmental concerns are inevitably political, there is no party line in this course. Students are welcome to express any political ideas about the course material. However, personally, I place a premium on the values of freedom, integrity, ethics, truth, facts, science, scholarship, diversity, equity, and inclusion.
The only prerequisite for this course is 152 Culture and Humanity or 200 Cultural Anthropology, although related courses on religion, ecology, or environment provide helpful background. In any case, most of all, students simply need an open mind together with intellectual curiosity and serious commitment, attributes of any reputable scientist or scholar worthy of the title.

Any prerequisites can be waived.

OBJECTIVES

The three primary goals of this course are to:

1. provide you with a broad and diverse systematic and in-depth cross-cultural survey of the interrelationships among religions and spiritualities with nature, ecologies, and environmentalisms with an emphasis on an anthropological perspective;

2. encourage you to explore more deeply into the ecology of the religion or other topic of your choice with an emphasis on its cultural and natural contexts by pursuing some of the optional recommendations (readings, films, and websites); and

3. provide you with an inventory of key resources on spiritual ecology, including books, periodicals, articles, reference works, documentary films, and websites for present and future study and research. (For example, see Appendix I on page 57, and the instructor’s website http://spiritualecology.info).

The learning outcomes for achieving these three objectives will be assessed through your intellectual journal, submitted as an email attachment for the midterm by February 28 and the final by May 10.

INTELLECTUAL JOURNAL

You should faithfully write at least one page typed single-spaced each week in reaction to the course material covered. Your entry should reflect on highlights from all of the course material for that week as thoroughly as feasible within the limited space, including any assigned readings, lecture, films, and class discussion.
In addition, you should react to at least one of the recommended items in the syllabus. To save time, you can draft each of your weekly journal entries by first taking notes in class, ideally on your laptop computer. Each weekly entry should be dated. Then after each class you can revise and polish the draft of your entry at home. Successive entries should be accumulated in a single file with the pages numbered in sequence. No more specific guidelines are provided for your journal, it is your personal record of thoughts during the course.

Your journal should be sent to me by email as an attachment for the midterm (February 28) and final (May 10). I will keep your journal confidential; thus, it will be deleted from my emails after I read it and send an email to you with my comments and your grade.

GRADING

The final course grade will be calculated as follows:

1. class attendance and regular participation in discussions at 30%;
2. midterm journal submission 30%; and
3. final journal submission 40%.

There are no quizzes, examinations, reports, or research papers required in this course. The emphasis is on your (1) active class participation and (2) active thinking through weekly entries in your intellectual journal. Here learning is considered to be an ongoing life-long process, not merely a finite product determined by any test or academic degree. By far, most important of all is the cultivation of your own informed and critical thinking in response to the course material. In other words, your thoughts are primary while the course material is secondary.

Your course work will be evaluated for:

1. achieving the primary objectives of the course;
2. general knowledge of all required reading assignments and of all material presented by the instructor including through PowerPoint lectures and documentary films in class;
3. clear, concise, logical, analytical, and critical thinking; and
4. regular, active, and meaningful participation in class discussions.

Students striving for an A grade should pursue more than the minimum requirements as recommended in the course Schedule and weekly email memos.

_The instructor takes this course very seriously as reflected in this unusually extensive syllabus, and students are expected to do likewise. Anyone who does not do so is wasting their time; thus, they should drop the course immediately, instead of waiting until the end of the semester to receive a poor or failing grade._

_Regular attendance is required._ If you miss a class, please provide a written excuse from a credible source, such as a medical doctor. You are required to come to class on time plus remain attentive throughout the entire period (1:30-4:00). Attendance will be taken at the beginning and again at the end of each class period. One letter grade will be subtracted from the final course grade for each three absences.

Extra credit may be earned by writing a one-page typed single-spaced reaction to any of the course material, including recommended readings, films, or websites in the Schedule. Five high quality extra credit papers can raise a borderline course grade (e.g., B+ to A-), while ten such papers can raise the course grade to the next higher level (e.g., C to B). Other alternatives for more extra credit include writing a review of an extra book, or a report based on library or field research; however, the specifics must be approved in advance. Thus, in principle, with enough high quality work any student can earn an A in this course. However, ultimately, the value of the course for serious students far exceeds any grade and credits, and, ideally, it should extend far after the semester is finished.

**SPECIAL NEEDS**

If any student feels the need for reasonable accommodations because of a disability, then she or he should contact the KOKUA Program in the Queen Lili`uokalani Center for Student Services (QLCSS 013)(phone 956-7511 or 956-7612, or email kokua@hawaii.edu), and/or send me an email marked CONFIDENTIAL. I am quite willing to collaborate with any student and KOKUA about needs related to a documented disability.
READING

Every student is required to read and discuss these carefully chosen textbooks. They are listed below in the order that they are covered as specified in the weekly Schedule and my weekly memos. However, while the amount is substantial, your reading is not to extract and memorize information for any quiz or examination, but instead to thoughtfully react to the main points.

Most fortunately, all textbooks are free, except for Bauer-Wu. Brailovskaya is available at the link listed below. Armstrong, Macy and Johnstone, Sponsel, and Taylor are each available as an eBook through the Hamilton Library catalog. Nevertheless, below the prices are indicated from Amazon.com and the UHM Bookstore in case you wish to purchase some. Brailovskaya was not ordered since it is free online.


Sponsel, Leslie E. 2012. Spiritual Ecology: A Quiet Revolution (Amazon hardcover $65, Kindle $46.80. UHM Bookstore hardcover $53.95, used $41).


Bauer-Wu, Susan, 2023, A Future We Can Love: How We Can Reverse the Climate Crisis with the Power of Our Hearts and Minds, Inspired by Conversation Between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Greta Thunberg, Shambhala Publications, Inc. (Amazon hardcover $13.20, paperback $20.95, Kindle $14.99. UHM Bookstore $24.95, used $19).
Macy, Joanna, and Chris Johnstone, 2022, *Active Hope: How to Face the Mess We’re in with Unexpected Resilience and Creative Power* (Second Edition, Amazon paperback $15.99, Kindle $9.99. UHM Bookstore paperback $18.95, used $14.50). (The 2012 first edition of this book is available in digital form free online through Hamilton Library. While the new edition is preferable, the first is sufficient).

A substantial list of additional resources is provided in Appendix I (p. 57).

You are encouraged to pursue your individual interests in exploring the resources identified in this syllabus and other places. Students who take advantage of as many of the resources provided here as feasible will acquire a systematic and thorough overview of the subject.

It should be noted that I have been engaged in research and publishing on spiritual ecology since the 1990s. Accordingly, besides my book, many of my publications are cited in the Schedule. However, only two of my articles are required reading, these during the first and second weeks of the semester. The rest of my articles are optional as only recommended reading.

Please alert me if there is a problem with any of the links, websites, or other matters.

**SCHEDULE** (only reading assignments)

**ORIENTATION**

January 10  Big Picture - UNEP skim pp. 72-101, UNEP read pp. 5-71
January 17 – Sponsel – Ecology and Spirituality article

**SACRED NATURE**

January 24 - Armstrong Chapters 1-5
January 31 - Armstrong Chapters 6-10
SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY

February 7 - Sponsel Foreword, Prologue, Parts I
February 14 - Sponsel Part II, Recommended: Taylor Appendix
February 21 - Sponsel Part III
February 28 - Sponsel Part IV
March 6 - Sponsel Part V
March 13 - Sponsel Part VI, Epilogue

DARK GREEN RELIGION

March 27 - Taylor Preface, Chapters 1-4
April 3 - Taylor Chapters 5-9, Afterword

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

April 10 - Bauer-Wu Parts One-Two
April 17 - Bauer-Wu Parts Three-Four

ACTIVE HOPE

April 24 - Macy Introduction, Chapters 1-6
May 1 - Macy Chapters 7-13
SCHEDULE (full)

ORIENTATION

January 10

Required Reading:


Film in Class: Journey of the Universe (2011, 56 minutes)

Recommended Reading:


Gerretsen, Isabelle, 2023 (May 11), “‘Earthrise’: The photo that sparked an environmental movement,” BBC News


Sponsel, L.E., 2024, “Religious Environmentalism: Pros and Cons” (notes, see Laulima website).


Kirsch, Adam, 2023, The Revolt Against Humanity: Imaging a Future without Us, New York, NY: Columbia Global Reports.


Recommended Films:

Gaia (2016, 49 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bj_fdeZi6-M


Holocene (2011, 6 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=TWcyIpul8OE


The Overview Effect (2013, 19 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKK4dAu_sFog

Tucker, Mary Evelyn, Journey of the Universe: A Story of Our Times, Burke Lectureship (2016, 56 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dLk5h-gl7A.

Tucker, Mary Evelyn, and John Grim, Journey of the Universe 10th Anniversary Celebration (2021, 90 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h332y_OkDOA.

Welcome to the Anthropocene (2012, 3 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvgG-pxlobk
What is biodiversity? (2020, 3 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTC4qiXd36Q

Recommended Websites:
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2023, https://www.ipcc.ch/.
Overview Institute, Frank White, 2024, https://overviewinstitute.org/.
Scientists Warning, 2024, https://scientistswarning.forestry.oregonstate.edu/.

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January 17

Required Reading:
https://fore.yale.edu/sites/default/files/leslie_sponsel_-_religion_and_ecology_resource_list.pdf,
https://fore.yale.edu/Resources/Bibliographies,
https://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/syllabi/).

PowerPoint Lecture: Spiritual Ecology Overview

Film in Class: Spirit and Nature (1991, 88 minutes)

Recommended Reading:


Recommended Films:

Kumar, Satish, Spirituality and Ecology, The Green Interview (2020, 60 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ePQh9N0SePs.


Vaughan-Lee, Llewellyn, Spiritual Ecology (2011, 55 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CKLgDEQ0OQo


Recommended Websites:


SACRED NATURE

January 24

Required Reading: Armstrong Chapters 1-5

PowerPoint Lecture: Sacred Waters

Film in Class: Standing on Sacred Ground: Islands of Sanctuary (2013, 57 minutes)

Recommended Reading:


Recommended Films:

Albrecht, Glenn, Environment Change, Distress and Human Emotion: Solastalgia, TEDxSydney (2010, 16 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GUGW8rOpLY.
Insights, Honolulu, HI: PBS Hawaii Television/Insights (2015, 56 minutes) [a remarkable debate among four Native Hawaiians about the pros and cons of the controversial Thirty Meter Telescope construction on the sacred mountain of Mauna Kea]. http://video.pbshawaii.org/video/2365481734/?start=1200


O’Brien, Miles, The sacred and the scientific clash on Hawaii’s Mauna Kea, PBS Newshour (2016, 9 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=onERw0-ixLA.


Recommended Websites:
Sacred Land Film Project https://sacredland.org/
Sacred Mauna Kea https://sacredmaunakea.wordpress.com/about/
Sacred Sites International Foundation https://sacred-sites.org/
UNESCO World Heritage Centre https://whc.unesco.org/

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January 31

Required Reading: Armstrong Chapters 6-10

PowerPoint Lectures:
Sacred Caves of Thailand
Sacred Caves of the World (explore in Laulima website)
Film in Class: Cave of Forgotten Dreams (2010, 90 minutes, DVD 13327)

Recommended Reading:


Recommended Films:
Awesome Sacred Places Around the World (2018, 10 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Io-3M3RUEQ
Foster, Tony, Sacred Places: Four Corners of the American Southwest (3 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UB7H9RKF4WE
Gray, Martin, The Power of Place: Sacred Sites and the Presence of the Miraculous (2021, 56 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMHTIOJrZX0
Sheldrake, Rupert, 2022, Holy Places (2022, 68 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBK_plapJZA

Recommended Websites:

SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY

February 7

Required Reading: Sponsel Foreword, Prologue, Parts I

PowerPoint Lectures:

Animism as Spiritual Ecology

Saint Francis of Assisi – Environmental Saint (explore in Laulima website)

Film in Class: Aluna: The Kogi People’s Message (2012, 91 minutes).

Recommended Reading:


Geddes, Linda, 2022 (April 10), “Mushrooms communicate with each other using up to 50 ‘words’, scientist claims,” The Guardian


Deloria, Vine, Jr., 2003, God is Red: A Native View of Religion, Golden, co; Fulcrom Publishing.


Recommended Films:

Harvey, Graham, We Have Always Been Animists, Harvard University (2019, 67 minutes) https://cswr.hds.harvard.edu/news/2019/11/07/video-we-have-always-been-animists.

Lamhna, Enna Ni, Folklore and Mythology of Trees, Tree Council of Ireland (2023, 59 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b4yC5lQuS2w.


Sponsel, L.E., Natural Wisdom: Meditations on Buddhist Ecology and Environmentalism, Research Center for Buddhist Studies, College of Language and Cultural Studies, Royal University of Bhutan, Zoom Lecture https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tvArbu3_Pk (2021, 122 minutes).

Wells, Daniel, A Journey with Sacred Trees, Photo Exhibition Slideshow, Harvard University Divinity School (2023, 4 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_-elsEh8oeM

Recommended Websites:


Keim, Brandon, 2017 (June 7), Where the churches are forests, too, Anthropocene Magazine http://www.anthropocenemagazine.org/2017/06/where-the-churches-are-forests-too/.


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February 14

Required Reading: Sponsel Part II, Recommended: Taylor Appendix
PowerPoint Lectures:

Henry David Thoreau – The Spirit of Walden

John Muir – Wilderness Disciple (explore in Laulima website)

Film in Class: John Muir in The New World (2011, 85 minutes)

Recommended Reading:


Recommended Films:

Barry Wood on Thoreau’s Life at Walden Pond (2010, 83 minutes)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=464a_VYqU0Y

Henry David Thoreau: An American Eccentric (2021, 40 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5CchLjEY8Q
Henry David Thoreau’s Reflections on Walden Pond (2007, 6 minutes)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0Quw_RPB0U

Gary Lachman on The Life and Work of Rudolf Steiner (2018, 66 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n7ohA8jp5DI

John Muir Trail 2021, Journey Through the Range Of Life (2022, 71 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdF4D7OuhmM

Recommended Websites:

Anthroposophical Society of America https://anthroposophy.org/.


February 21

Required Reading: Sponsel Part III

PowerPoint Lecture: Challenging Christians - Lynn White, Jr.

Film in Class: Is God Green? PBS Bill Moyers on America (2006, 50 minutes)

Recommended Reading:

D’Orio, Wayne, 2023 (May), “A Field of Study and a Moral Force,” Yale University


Recommended Films:


Bron Taylor, Assessing environmental behavior from the world's predominant religions to..., Danish Institute for Advanced Study (2023, 69 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pAlHsaqdnq4.


Recommended Websites:
February 28

Required Reading: Sponsel Part IV

PowerPoint Lecture: William S. Merwin – Can a Poet Save Nature?

Film in Class: W.S. Merwin: Even Though the Whole World Is Burning (2015, 82 minutes).

Recommended Reading:


Recommended Films:

Christopher Ives with Mary Evelyn Tucker on Buddhism and Ecology (2013, 15 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBZ5vQgcfFE.

The Pope, the Environmental Crisis, and Frontline Leaders: The Letter: Laudato Si Film (2022, 82 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BII

The Green Patriarch (2009, 42 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFpXuwMLiBE.


Paul Mendes-Flohr, Martin Buber: A Life of Faith and Dissent, Institute for Islamic, Christian, & Jewish Studies (2022, 62 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NFzsfDsRgRw.

Recommended Websites:


Merwin Conservancy, 2024, Maui, HI https://merwinconservancy.org/.

First part of journal due

March 6

Required Reading: Sponsel Part V

PowerPoint Lecture: Sacred Trees, Groves, and Forests

Film in Class: Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai (Green Belt Movement, 2008, 80 minutes)

Recommended Reading:


Moor, Robert, 2021 (May 6), “Suzanne Simard Changed How the World Sees Trees: The pathbreaking ecologist on interspecies collaboration, tree sentience,
and nature’s resilience, “Intelligencer

Taylor, Bron, and Adrian Ivakhiv, 2010, “Opening Pandora’s Film,” Journal for the

Gilmore, Lee, 2010, Theater in a Crowded Fire: Ritual and Spirituality at Burning

Maathai, Wangari, 2004, The Green Belt Movement: Sharing the Approach and


Maathai, Wangari, 2010, Replenishing the Earth: Spiritual Values for Healing

Taylor, Bron, ed., 2013, Avatar and Nature Spirituality, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada:
Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

Recommended Films:


Intelligence Without Brains an Trees Talk, Think and Heal?, University of South
Australia, World Science Center (92 minutes, 1989)

Suzanne Simard, The Hidden Language of Trees (2021, 61 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bln4CWSjEg.

What if Everyone Planted a Tree on Their Birthday? (2019, 6 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4XykQDotoc.

Missie Wikler, Forest Bathing 101, Deschutes Public Library (2023, 49 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k-CoeV8C48s.

Recommended Websites:


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March 13

Required Reading: Sponsel Part VI, Epilogue

PowerPoint Lectures: Tibet – Desacralization of Nature Generates Ecocide

Film in Class: Devotion and Defiance: Buddhism and the Struggle for Religious Freedom in Tibet (2004, 35 minutes)

Recommended Reading:


Recommended Films:

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet on Ecology, Ethics, and Interdependence (2011, 108 minutes) [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HoMIYU9npo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3HoMIYU9npo).

Richard Dawkins, Rowan Williams, and Anthony Kenny, 2012, Debate on The Nature of Human Beings and the Question of Their Ultimate Origin (2012, 88 minutes) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bow4nnh1Wv0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bow4nnh1Wv0).

Matthew Fox, Ecology Is Practical Cosmology (2022, 68 minutes) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRR0r4_kSmM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fRR0r4_kSmM).

Alister McGrath: My Journey through Science, Faith and Doubt - A Personal Story, 2023, 32 minutes) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtkJTvVhS7M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtkJTvVhS7M).

The Theology Pugcast, Ecology and the Libel of Christianity: The Legacy of Lynn White Jr., (2020, 73 minutes) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtdXrTMNvuk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtdXrTMNvuk).

Recommended Websites:

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, 2024, [http://www.dalailama.com](http://www.dalailama.com).

International Campaign for Tibet, 2024, [https://savetibet.org/](https://savetibet.org/).


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**March 18-22  SPRING RECESS**

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**DARK GREEN RELIGION**

**March 27**

Required Reading: Reading: Taylor Preface, Chapters 1-4


Film in Class: Butterfly: A Film (Julia Butterfly Hill, 2016, 80 minutes).

Recommended Reading:


Morin, Brandi, 2021 (June 8), “Inside the battle to save Canada’s ancient, old-growth forests Activists in British Columbia are erecting blockades to try to
prevent logging of ancient trees on Indigenous lands.” Al Jazeera
anient-old-growth-forests.

Pearce, Fred, 2023 (January 4), “Sacred Groves: How the Spiritual Connection
Helps Protect Nature,” Yale Environment 360
https://e360.yale.edu/features/sacred-groves-religion-forests.


Salmond, Noel, 2006, “Julia Butterfly: Environmentalist as Stylite and Ascetic,”

Handbook of Religion and Ecology, Willis Jenkins, Mary Evelyn Tucker, and

Starr, Michelle, 2023 (September 1), “Plants Really Do 'Scream'. We Just Never
Heard It Until Now,” Science Alert https://www.sciencealert.com/plants-really-
do-scream-we-just-never-heard-it-until-now.

Witt, Joseph, and Bron Taylor, 2017, “Religion and Eco-Resistance Movements in
the Twenty-First Century,” Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture


Hill, Julie Butterfly, 2000, The Legacy of Luna: The Story of a Tree, a Woman, and

Kaza, Stephanie, 1996, The Attentive Heart: Conversations with Trees, Boston,
MA: Shambhala Press.


Collapse by 2028, and the Bold Economic Plan to Save Life on Earth, New York,
NY: St. Martin’s Press.

Recommended Films:

Heather Alberro, In the Shadow of Death: Radical environmental activism in the era of climate and biological annihilation, University of the Underground (2021, 51 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRx1WOWqEbw.


Bron Taylor, 2015, Dark Green Religion (2015, 60 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2UtmdmRLL5e8A.

Recommended Websites:
Honolulu Tree City USA, 2024,


April 3
Required Reading: Taylor Chapters 5-9, Afterword

PowerPoint Lecture: Radical Environmentalism

Film in Class: Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time (2011, 73 minutes)

Recommended Reading:


Recommended Films:

Roger Hallam and Freddie Sayer, Extinction Rebellion founder: why right wingers should be radical environmentalists, UnHerd (2021, 30 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rLtACuyUA0o.

Laurie Johnson, Modern Ideologies: Environmentalism: Earth First (2016, 42 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTAYti6sCx0.


Daniel McGowan, Rise and Fall of Eco-Terrorist Cell, PBS Newshour (2011, 9 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tMSHxUr2Fjk.

Nikos Sotirakopoulos and Ben Bayer, Environmentalism's Dark History, Ayn Rand Institute (2022, 79 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLnjJQLfo1E.

Recommended Websites:


GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

April 10

Required Reading: Bauer-Wu Parts One-Two

PowerPoint Lecture: Global Climate Change (explore in Laulima website)

Film in Class: This Changes Everything (2015, 89 minutes)

Recommended Reading:


His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet and Franz Alt, 2020, Our Only Home: A Climate Appeal to the World, Toronto, Ontario, Canada: Hanover Square Press.


Recommended Films:

Greta Thunberg TedTalk (2019, 11 minutes) 
https://www.ted.com/speakers/greta_thunberg.

Greta Thunberg UN Plenary COP-24 (2018, 4 minutes) 
http://youtu.be/Xwnqy51BJNM.
Greta Thunberg, 5 Years After Paris Agreement, World Is “Speeding in the Wrong Direction” on Climate,” Democracy Now (2020, 6 minutes) https://www.democracynow.org/2020/12/14/greta_thunberg_paris_agreement_5th_anniversary.

Greta Thunberg, UN Climate Change Conference is a 'scam', ABC News In-depth (2022, 19 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufERA6HzP6E.

Greta Thunberg: The Climate Event, Southbank Centre (2022, 95 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ropBOwPvmLM.

Recommended Websites:


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April 17
Required Reading: Reading: Bauer-Wu Parts Three-Four

PowerPoint Lecture: Natural Wisdom - Buddhist Ecology and Environmentalism

Film in Class: Pad Yatra: A Green Odyssey (2012, 72 minutes)

Recommended Reading:


Ingram, Paul O., 2016, You Have Been Told What is Good: Interreligious Dialogue and Climate Change, Eugene, OR: Cascade Books.


Recommended Films:


His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet, Addressing the Climate Crisis - Message to the G7 Speakers’ Conference (2020, 5 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GcZnSAlziek.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet in Conversation with Greta Thurberg and Leading Scientists on the Crisis of Climate Feedback Loops (2021, 187 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9GXgOMMeTg.

New Religious Responses to the Climate Crisis – Radical Environmentalism and Protest, Inform Seminar (2022, 124 minutes)  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gj3mrEqVx_A.

Pope Francis- The Letter Laudato Si (2022, 81 minutes)  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rps9bs85BlI,  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmUJn_Q8bt4.

Greta Thunberg, Climate Crisis Is An 'Existential Emergency,' The View (2023, 8 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDQUpDr7Cgw.

Recommended Websites:


GreenFaith: Grassroots, Multifaith, Climate Justice, 2024, https://greenfaith.org/,  
https://greenfaith.org/resources/.

Indigenous Climate Action, 2024,  
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKuyFuJexzNqEBsYDjMGykg.


https://thirdact.org/.


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ACTIVE HOPE

April 24
Required Reading: Macy Introduction, Chapters 1-6

PowerPoint Lecture: The Great Turning – Joanna Macy


Recommended Reading:


Recommended Films:

Keith Akers, A Radical Approach to The Environmental Crisis, MintPress News (2023, 54 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DwCuzR6BBc.


Joanna Macy Interview (August 28, 2020, 46 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9vHc1aqSaM.
Carolyn Merchant, Environmentalism: From the Control of Nature to Partnership, UC Berkeley Graduate Council Lectures (2010, 59 minutes)  

Bill Ripple, The Scientist’s Warning (2022, 35 minutes)  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=byXGCPo-80w.

Recommended Websites:

Alliance of World Scientists, 2024,  
https://scientistswarning.forestry.oregonstate.edu/.

Jane Goodall Institute, 2024, https://janegoodall.org/,  
https://janegoodall.org/habitat-restoration-climate-change/.

International Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2024,  
https://www.ipcc.ch/.

Joanna Macy, 2024, https://www.joannamacy.net/main,  
https://www.joannamacy.net/main#books,  
https://www.joannamacy.net/main#multimedia.

UNEP Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2000,  

May 1

Required Reading: Macy Chapters 7-13

Film in Class: Renewal: Stories from America’s Religious Environmental Movement (2007, 90 minutes) (Also, see https://fore.yale.edu/Resources/Professional-Offers/Fellowships-and-Student-Opportunities,  
https://fore.yale.edu/Resources/Religion-and-Ecology-Programs,  
https://fore.yale.edu/Resources/Eco-anxiety-Resources).
Recommended Reading:


Recommended Films:

Brangham, William, 2021 (March 30), Elizabeth Kolbert’s new book explores striking ways to fix our ecological problems, PBS Newshour (6 minutes)

Paul Hawkin, ReGeneration, Commonwealth Club of California (2021, 63 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6UKYN3rd0h8.


Joanna Macy, Climate Crisis as a Spiritual Path (2021, 21 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQAYVKqTkKo.

Jim Merkel, Radical Simplicity Lowering Your Ecological Footprint (2008, 64 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_F26W1uZ0g.
Blair Nelsen and Waterspirit, Yale University Forum on Religion and Ecology Spotlights (2023, 56 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LeTeVxH0t8E.

John Seed Message for the Youth (2018, 12 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7bGMKFQKfqU.


Mathis Wackernagel, Ecological Footprint, Accounting for a Small Planet (2014, 32) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9iu8TW05TY.

Recommended Websites:


ReGeneration https://regeneration.org/.


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FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

May 10    Second part of journal due

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APPENDIX I:
RESOURCES FOR SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY AND RELATED SUBJECTS

TEXTBOOKS

https://environmentalscience.artsandsciences.baylor.edu/person/susan-p-bratton-phd.

http://www.wpi.edu/academics/facultydir/rgs.html,
http://users.wpi.edu/~gottlieb,
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVpxdd1Oosg.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15v6f2moleE,
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yGJ_r-pEH64.

http://www.uvm.edu/~skaza.


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsPUzFq3MU4.

http://www.brntonaylor.com/blog,
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uxlvBZEBS1M8,

ANTHOLOGIES


REFERENCE WORKS


SERIES (Religion and Ecology with Harvard University Press)


PERIODICALS

Journal for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture


WEBSITES (include course syllabi)

Forum on Religion and Ecology (FORE) (Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim, Yale University) https://fore.yale.edu/ [monthly enewsletter subscription available]

Religion and Nature (Bron Taylor, University of Florida):

Spiritual Ecology (Leslie E. Sponsel, University of Hawai`i) https://spiritualecology.info/.

LITERATURE REVIEWS


PROGRAMS

https://fore.yale.edu/Resources/Religion-and-Ecology-Programs