

ENVS 203: Intro. to Environmental Studies: Humanities

UH 12:00 - 1:20, Pacific Hall 123 (Spring 2005)

CRN: 34771

Dr. Ted Toadvine(toadvine@uoregon.edu)

Office: PLC 319; Tel: 346-5554

Office Hours: UH 10:30–11:30, and by appt.

GTFs

Jenna Garmon (jgarmon@uoregon.edu) Office: 6 Pacific; Tel: 6-5003 Office Hours: MW 3-4 Sections: F 10–10:50; F 11–11:50	Kirsten Rudestam (krudesta@uoregon.edu) Office: 6 Pacific; Tel: 6-5003 Office Hours: UH 11-12 Sections: H 3–3:50, H 4–4:50
Jason Schreiner (jws@uoregon.edu) Office: 6 Pacific; tel: 6-5003 Office Hours: H 3-4, F 10-11 Sections: H 2–2:50, F 9–9:50	Shangrila Joshi (sjoshi@uoregon.edu) Office: 240 Columbia; Tel: 6-5426 Office Hours: UH 1:30 - 2:30 Sections: F 12–12:50, F 1–1:50

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a survey of the contribution of humanities disciplines – literature, history, religious studies, and philosophy – to understanding the relationship between human beings and the natural environment. Theoretical perspectives covered in the course include the intellectual history of cultural attitudes and perceptions of nature, the role of religion in shaping environmental values, Native American perspectives on the environment, and the suggestions of contemporary radical ecology movements – deep ecology, social ecology, and ecofeminism – for revitalizing human relationships with the environment. The last segment of the course examines the contribution of the humanities to four current environmental issues: wilderness preservation, the Pacific Northwest salmon crisis, population growth, and global climate change. This course fulfills the Arts and Letters Group Requirement and is a core course requirement for Environmental Studies and Environmental Science majors.

TEXTSJoseph DesJardins, ed., *Environmental Ethics: Concepts, Policy, and Theory* (McGraw Hill, 1998)N. Scott Momaday, *The Way to Rainy Mountain* (University of New Mexico Press, 1977)Online course reserves available at http://libweb.uoregon.edu/acs_svc/reserve-index.html (password: spring05/showers)ONLINE RESERVE (available as .pdf files for download)Boshongo creation story (Hallman, *Traversing Philosophical Boundaries*, 2nd. ed., 119-120).Cherokee creation story (Turner III, ed., *The Portable North American Indian Reader*, 86-93).Lao Tzu, *Tao Te Ching* selections (Feiser & Powers, eds., *Scriptures of the East*, 183-188).Plato, “The Nature of the Soul and its Relation to the Body” (Hallman, *Traversing Phil. Boundaries*, 2nd ed., 24-38).Wendell Berry, “The Gift of Good Land” (Botzler & Armstrong, eds., *Environmental Ethics*, 2nd. ed., 221-228).Andrew Linzey, “For God So Loved the World” (VanDeVeer & Pierce, *The Environ. Ethics & Policy Book*, 52-55).

Gary Paul Nabhan, “Cultural Parallax in Viewing North American Habitats” (Botzler & Armstrong, 2nd. ed., 264-271).

Winona LaDuke, “Voices from White Earth” (Botzler & Armstrong, eds., *Environmental Ethics*, 3rd. ed., 256-264).N. Scott Momaday, “An American Land Ethic” (*The Man Made of Words*, 9-12).N. Scott Momaday, “The Arrowmaker” (*The Man Made of Words*, 42-49).Warwick Fox, “Deep Ecology: A New Philosophy for our Time?” (Light & Rolston, eds., *Environ. Ethics*, 252-261).Carolyn Merchant, “The Death of Nature” (*Earthcare: Women and the Environment*, 75-90).Greta Gaard & Lori Gruen, “Ecofeminism” (Light & Rolston, eds., *Environmental Ethics*, 276-293).Edward Abbey, “Polemic: Industrial Tourism and the National Parks” (*Desert Solitaire*, 39-59).Stephanie Mills, “Salmon Support” (Throop, ed., *Environmental Restoration*, 39-52).David Abram, “Reciprocity” (Foltz & Frodeman, eds., *Rethinking Nature: Essays in Environmental Philosophy*, 77-92).Charley Dewberry, “Saving Science” (*Saving Science: A Critique of Science & Its Role in Salmon Recovery*, 1-26).Dale Jamieson, “Ethics, Public Policy and Global Warming” (*Science, Technology, & Human Values* 17 (1992): 139-153).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

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| 1. participation & attendance | 10% |
| 2. four short take-home essays (900 - 1200 words, 10% each) | 40% |
| 3. midterm and final exam (25% each) | 50% |
- **Class Participation/Attendance:** You are expected to participate actively in this class, which includes attending the lectures, reading all assigned material prior to class, and participating productively and respectfully in your discussion section. Unprepared students may be dismissed from classes and counted as absent. It is your responsibility to document your attendance at each lecture and discussion section by signing an attendance roll, which will be organized by discussion section. Missing FOUR classes (lecture or discussion) FOR ANY REASON will result in a full grade reduction. An additional full grade reduction will be made for each additional missed class after the fourth. Three late arrivals or early departures will count as one absence. In the event that you will miss four or more classes due to extended illness or university obligations, you must provide verifiable documentation to your discussion leader in order to avoid penalty to your grade. Discussion is crucial to this class, and your discussion leaders and I will do our best to make you feel at ease and welcome to contribute to the conversation. The best way to understand these sometimes difficult and controversial topics is to talk about them with each other, so please feel free to contribute any question, objection, or other thought about the topic at hand when such occurs to you. Although no relevant remark is out of bounds in this class, you will be expected to treat all members of the class with courtesy and respect. The quality and quantity of your participation in the class discussion will be evaluated in assigning 10% of your final course grade. If class preparation or attendance need encouragement, I may choose to institute pop quizzes that will be counted as a portion of the participation grade. Obviously, absences from class will also negatively affect your participation grade.
 - **Take-home essays:** Four short essays of 900 - 1200 words each (about 3-4 pages) will be required in response to essay questions posted on Blackboard (accessed from the UO homepage or at <https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/>). You must bring essays to your discussion section on the dates specified on the syllabus. Essays must be typed, stapled, proof-read, double-spaced, and include your name, section, and a word-count on the first page. Essays not meeting these requirements or that are less than the minimum number of words will not be graded. Essays not brought to discussion will be treated as late, and late essays will lose one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late. Each essay will be worth 10% of the final course grade. Essays will be graded by your assigned discussion leader.
 - **Midterm and Final Exam:** Exams will draw from all material assigned as readings or discussed in class. A list of review terms and concepts will be posted on Blackboard at least one week prior to the exam date. Exams will include a mix of true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer (2-3 sentences) questions. The final will include only material covered after the midterm. Each exam will be worth 25% of the final course grade, but **a passing grade (60%) on each exam is necessary for a passing grade in the course.**

PLEASE NOTE

- **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Please review the university policy available at <http://www.uoregon.edu/~conduct/sai.htm> for an explanation of what constitutes academic dishonesty and how it will be dealt with in this course.
- **Disability Accommodations:** If you have a documented disability, please let me know as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

(This schedule is subject to revision as we proceed. Specific assignments will be announced in class)

Week 1: 3/29, 3/31	Introduction to course Historical Conceptions of Nature Boshongo creation story (online) Cherokee creation stories (online) Genesis, "The Origin of the World and Mankind" (EE, 26-28)
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Week 2: 4/5, 4/7	Plato, "The Nature of the Soul and its Relation to the Body" (online) Lao-Tzu, <i>Tao Te Ching</i> selections (online) Saint Francis of Assisi, "The Canticle of Brother Sun" (EE, 32-33) Saint Thomas Aquinas, "Differences between Rational and Other Creatures" (EE, 33-35) Descartes, "Animals as Automata" (EE, 35-39) First Essay Due, 4/7 or 4/8 (in discussion section)
Week 3: 4/12, 4/14	The Legacy of Christianity White, "The Historical Roots of our Environmental Crisis" (EE 46-52) Berry, "The Gift of Good Land" (online) Ruether, "The Biblical Vision of the Ecological Crisis" (EE 172-176) Linzey, "For God So Loved the World" (online)
Week 4: 4/19, 4/21	Native American Perspectives Hughes & Swan, "How much of the Earth is Sacred Space?" (EE 581-89) Nabhan, "Cultural Parallax in Viewing North American Habitats" (online) LaDuke, "Voices from White Earth" (online) Second Essay Due, 4/21 or 4/22 (in discussion section)
Week 5: 4/26, 4/28	Momaday, <i>The Way to Rainy Mountain</i> Momaday, "An American Land Ethic" (online) Momaday, "The Arrowmaker" (online)
Week 6: 5/3, 5/5	MIDTERM EXAM, 5/3 Radical Ecology: Deep Ecology, Social Ecology, and Ecofeminism Devall & Sessions, "Deep Ecology" (EE 524-530) Fox, "Deep Ecology: A New Philosophy for our Time?" (online)
Week 7: 5/10, 5/12	Bookchin, "Social Ecology Versus Deep Ecology" (EE 531-540) Merchant, "The Death of Nature" (online) Gaard & Gruen, "Ecofeminism: Toward Global Justice and Planetary Health" (online) Third Essay Due, 5/12 or 5/13 (in discussion section)
Week 8: 5/17, 5/19	The Wilderness Debate Nash, "A Wilderness Condition" (EE 53-57) Abbey, "Polemic: Industrial Tourism and the National Parks" (online) Cronon, "The Trouble with Wilderness" (EE 371-382) Rolston, "The Wilderness Idea Reaffirmed" (EE 382-391)
Week 9: 5/24, 5/26	The Pacific Northwest Salmon Crisis Mills, "Salmon Support" (online) Abram, "Reciprocity" (online) Dewberry, "Saving Science" (online) Fourth Essay Due, 5/26 or 5/27 (in discussion section)
Week 10: 5/31, 6/2	Population Growth and Climate Change Hardin, "Lifeboat Ethics" (EE 395-403) Mies, "The Myth of Catching-up Development" (EE 416-423) FILM: Global Warming and God's Creation Jamieson, "Ethics, Public Policy and Global Warming" (online)
Tues., 6/7, 8 am	Final Exam