

ENV 1008H S
Worldviews and Ecology
The University of Toronto
School of the Environment

Instructor: Simon Appolloni, PhD
Time: Thursdays 2-4 p.m.
Location: Room ES 1042, 5 Bancroft Avenue
Office: Earth Sciences Building, room 2104

Course Description and Rationale

Our modern industrial civilization, while having yielded many benefits for human kind, has also brought about the acidification of oceans, the destruction of countless forests, the loss of fresh water, the degradation of soils, and the pollution of the atmosphere. Humans have brought about the sixth major extinction in Earth's history and the alteration of our very climate. It is not an exaggeration to state, what many environmental thinkers and scientists have been saying for some time now, that humans have become a geological force. Scientists are referring to the current geological era as the "Anthropocene" to stress the extent to which anthropogenic pressures upon Earth systems are producing disastrous planetary environmental change. Our modern industrial civilization was born out of a set of worldviews that view nature as an adversary to be overcome and resources as existing only for the benefit of humans.

A worldview could be described as a "culturally constructed way in which one sees the world and one's place in it" (Foltz, 2003). In this manner a person's model of reality, her beliefs, assumptions and values about what matters – whether she is aware of them or not – will assuredly influence the way she might perceive the world and its problems. There is, then, a strong connection among worldviews, religion and ecology, a topic which, while perplexing for many, has been of growing academic and pragmatic concern in recent years. What is becoming increasingly apparent is that when differences in worldviews are not taken into account, misunderstandings arise.

When it comes to fostering an environmentally sustainable and socially just society, questions arise: are all worldviews equal? Can the prevailing neoliberal economic model of reality ever become conducive to fostering such a goal, or is it intrinsically part of the problem? Should our goal be to pursue one homogenous global worldview? Or should we entertain and welcome a plurality of worldviews, some that have existed yet have been suppressed for some time?

In small group discussions, through critical questioning, and sharing of ideas on readings and videos, and through visits to various places in Toronto, and from

discussions with visitors, this course will allow the student to understand the place and importance of studying worldviews in ecological thinking, a task that includes being able to articulate her/his own worldview.

Evaluation

Attendance & Participation	15%
Book review presentation	20%
5 two-page written reflections	25%
Research paper	40%

Class attendance and participation (15%)

It is essential for the success of this course that students attend class regularly and participate in class discussions. (All of us are part of this learning process!) Each student will kick off a discussion of the readings at least once.

Book review presentation (20%)

Each student will choose a book from the bibliography below (those highlighted in bold), and, at a date agreed upon mutually by the student and instructor, will present the book report at the beginning of a class (30 minutes).

5 two-page written reflections (25%)

After each of the four sections, students will hand in a two-paged (double-spaced) written reflection that addresses issues or themes covered in one or two of the readings in that section. Students will identify the issue or theme, how it is connected to the author(s)' article, and pose one fully developed critical question based on the theme or issue. Please note that the question section of the assignment is not a "questions for discussion" item. Rather, these are fully developed, probing, critical questions directed at the issue or theme. The last, fifth reflection, due at the end of the term, is the same length. Only this time, the student will identify and reflect upon what is her/his own worldview.

The research paper (40%)

The research paper must address an environmental issue from a worldview/religious perspective. Students will get a flavor of such perspectives and potential topics from the course subject matter and readings. It is imperative, however, that by late February each student clears his/her paper topic with the instructor by presenting a one-page assignment with the proposed title, thesis statement, and preliminary bibliography. This will afford an opportunity to discuss pertinent readings, format, and any problems that may be surfacing with the assignment.

The paper, 8-10 pages double-spaced (6-8 pages for 4th-year undergrad), typewritten, must include a "thesis statement," and argue that "thesis" or particular perspective in a clear and comprehensive fashion. In other words, the assignment

requires not merely a description of a particular environmental issue, but rather a constructed argument based on the students' critical reflection upon collected data, and creative grappling with the religious, theological or ethical issues involved. Additional guidelines and expectations for the paper will be provided in class. Late papers, without a legitimate excuse, will be returned without comments, and a late penalty assigned.

Introduction

Week 1 (Jan. 14)

Readings

Wei-ming, T. (1994). Beyond the Enlightenment mentality. In M. E. Tucker & J. Grim (Eds.), *Worldviews and ecology: Religion, philosophy, and the environment* (pp. 19-29). Maryknoll, NY.: Orbis Books.

Hedlund-de Witt, A. (2012). Exploring worldviews and their relationships to sustainable lifestyles: Towards a new conceptual and methodological approach. *Ecological Economics*, 84, 74-83. Retrieved from <http://simplelink.library.utoronto.ca/url.cfm/372819>

Ontology

Week 2 (Jan. 21)

Readings

Merchant, C. (1990). "Introduction" (xix-xxiv); Chapter 1 (1-41); "Dominion over nature" (164-191). In *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution* (2nd ed). New York, NY: HarperCollins.

Week 3 (Jan. 28)

Readings

Leopold, A. (1949). The Land Ethic. An Essay in *A Sand County Almanac*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 239-260. Excerpted from online: <http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl201/modules/texts/text3/leopold.html>

Week 4 (Feb. 4)*class video to watch*

Readings

Thomas Berry (1997). "The Universe Story: Its Religious Significance." In *The Greening of Faith: God, the Environment, and The Good Life*." Edited by John E. Carroll, Paul Brockelman, and Mary Westfall, 208-218. Hanover; London: University of New Hampshire Press.

Capra, F. (1982). The Systems View of Life. In *The Turning Point: Science, Society, and the Rising Culture* . New York, NY: Simon and Schuster, 265-304.

Ethics

Week 5 (Feb. 11)

Readings

Dussel, Enrique (1995). "Eurocentrism." In *The Invention of the Americas: Eclipse of 'the Other' and the Myth of Modernity*, Michael D. Barber trans. New York: Continuum. Found at <http://biblioteca.clacso.edu.ar/ar/libros/dussel/1492in/1492in.html>

Reading Week (Feb. 15-19); no classes

Week 6 (Feb. 25)

Readings

Boff, L. (1996). "Liberation Theology and Ecology: Rivals or Partners?" In *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*, 104-114. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis.

Scharper, S. B. (2013). "From Sustainable Development to Sustainable Liberation -Toward an Anthro-po-harmonic Ethic. In *For Earth's Sake: Toward a Compassionate Ecology*. Edited by Simon Appolloni, 180-199. Toronto, ON: Novalis.

Anthropology

Week 7 (Mar. 3) *trip to St. Gabriel's Parish*

Readings

White, Lynn (1967). "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis. *Science*, 155, 1203-1207. Found at: <http://www.jstor.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/1720120>

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si': On Care of Our Common Home*. http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

Week 8 (Mar. 10)

Readings

Tucker, M. E. (1994). "Ecological Themes in Taoism and Confucianism." In *Worldviews and Ecology: Religion, Philosophy, and the Environment*. Edited by M. E. Tucker & J. Grim, 150-160. Maryknoll, NY.: Orbis Books.

Sessions, G. (1994). "Deep Ecology as Worldview." In *Worldviews and Ecology: Religion, Philosophy, and the Environment*. Edited by M. E. Tucker & J. Grim, 207-227. Maryknoll, NY.: Orbis Books.

Week 9 (Mar. 17)

Readings

Bekoff, Marc and Jessica Pierce (2009). Excerpts from *Wild Justice: The Moral Lives of Animals*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009.

Epistemology

Week 10 (Mar. 24) *Possible Trip in Toronto's downtown*

Readings

Loy, David. (1997). "The Religion of the Market." *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, 65(2), 275-290. Found at:
<http://www.jstor.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/stable/pdfplus/1465766.pdf?acceptTC=true>

Week 11 (Mar. 31) *Jonah kick's off discussion"

Readings

McGregor, Deborah. (2004). "Coming Full Circle: Indigenous Knowledge, Environment, and Our Future." *American Indian Quarterly* 28 nos. 3-4: 385-410

Gudynas, Eduardo. (2011). "Buen Vivir: Today's Tomorrow." *Development* 54(4), 441-447.

<http://www.palgravejournals.com/development/journal/v54/n4/full/dev201186a.html>

Week 12 (Apr. 7)

Readings

Appolloni, Simon. (2016). "Wondering about Wonder as a Possible Antidote to Our Violence against Earth," (forthcoming in Brill)*

Cheney, Jim and Anthony Weston (1999). "Environmental Ethics as Environmental Etiquette: Toward an Ethics-Based Epistemology." *Environmental Ethics* 21 (Summer):115-134.

Websites

Earth Charter Initiative: <http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/>

The Work that Reconnects Network: <http://workthatreconnects.org/>

Transition Towns: <http://www.transitionnetwork.org/> or <http://www.transitionus.org>

Permaculture: <http://www.permaculture.org.uk/> or

<http://permacultureprinciples.com/>

Generation Waking Up (youth): <http://genup.net/> or Awakening the Dreamer

(adults): www.pachamama.org

Extra readings

Bakken, Peter W., Joan Gibb Engel, and J. Ronald Engel. *Ecology, Justice, and Christian Faith: A Critical Guide to the Literature*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1995.

- Bekoff, Marc and Jessica Pierce. *Wild Justice: The Moral Lives of Animals*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009.
- Bekoff, Mark. "Animal Emotions: Exploring Passionate Natures." *Bioscience* 50, no. 10 (October 2000): 861-870. doi: 10.1641/0006-3568(2000)050[0861:AEEP]2.0.CO;2.
- Berry, Thomas. *Befriending the Earth: A Theology of Reconciliation between Humans and the Earth*. Edited by Stephen Dunn, C.P. and Anne Lonergan. Mystic Conn.: Twenty-Third Publications, 1995.
- _____. *The Christian Future and the Fate of Earth*. Edited by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2009.
- _____. *The Dream of the Earth*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1988.
- _____. *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*. New York: Bell Tower Publishing Group, 1999.
- _____. *The Sacred Universe: Earth Spirituality, and Religion in the Twenty-First Century*. Edited by Mary Evelyn Tucker. New York: Columbia University Press, 2009.
- Boff, Leonardo. "Social Ecology: Poverty and Misery." In *Ecotheology: Voices from the South and North*, edited by David G. Hallman, 235-247. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1994.
- _____. "The Ethic of Care." In *A Voice for Earth: American Writers Respond to Earth Charter*, translated by Philip Berryman, edited by Peter Blaze Corcoran and A. James Wohlpar, 129-145. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2008.
- _____. *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*. Translated by Phillip Berryman. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1997.
- _____. *Ecology and Liberation: A New Paradigm*. Translated by John Cumming (from the Italian). Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1995.
- _____. *Global Civilization: Challenges to Society and Christianity*. Translated by Alexandre Guilherme. London: Equinox, 2005.
- Capra, Fritjof. *The Tao of Physics: An Exploration of the Parallels between Modern, Physics and Eastern Mysticism*. 4th updated ed. Boston: Shambala Press, 2000.
- _____. *The Turning Point: Science, Society, and the Rising Culture*. New York: Bantam Books, 1982.
- Cheney, Jim and Anthony Weston. "Environmental Ethics as Environmental Etiquette: Toward an Ethics-Based Epistemology." *Environmental Ethics* 21 (Summer 1999):115-134.

- Cuomo, Chris J. "Getting Closer: Thoughts on the Ethics of Knowledge Production." Accessed August 2013. <http://fore.research.yale.edu/disciplines/ethics/essays/>.
- Dalton, Anne Marie and Henry C. Simmons. *Ecotheology and the Practice of Hope*. Albany, N.Y.: SUNY Press, 2010.
- de Waal, Frans. *The Age of Empathy: Nature's Lessons for a Kinder Society*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Ltd. 2009.
- Dussel, Enrique. *Ethics of Liberation: In an Age of Globalization and Exclusion*. Translated by Eduardo Mendieta, Camilo Pérez Bustillo, Yolanda Angulo and Nelson Madonado-Torres. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2013.
- _____. *The Invention of the Americas: Eclipse of "the Other" and the Myth of Modernity*. Translated by Michael D. Barber. New York: Continuum, 1995.
- _____. *The Underside of Modernity: Apel, Ricoeur, Rorty, Taylor, and the Philosophy of Liberation*. Translated and edited by Eduardo Mendieta. New Jersey: Humanities Press, 1996.
- Eaton, Heather. "An Ecological Imaginary: Evolution and Religion in an Ecological Era." In *Ecological Awareness: Exploring Religion, Ethics and Aesthetics*, edited by Sigurd Bergmann and Heather Eaton, Studies in Religion and the Environment, 7-23. Berlin: LIT Press, 2011.
- _____. "Forces of Nature: Aesthetics and Nature." In *Aesth/Ethics in Environmental Change: Hiking through the Arts, Ecology, Religion and Ethics of the Environment*, edited by Sigurd Bergmann, Irmgard Blindow and Konrad Ott, 109-126. Berlin: Lit Verlag, 2013.
- Frodeman, Robert. *Geo-Logic: Breaking Ground between Philosophy and the Earth Sciences*. New York: State University of New York Press, 2003.
- Goodenough, Ursula. *The Sacred Depths of Nature*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Gregeren, Niels Henrik and J. Wentzel van Huyssteen eds., *Rethinking Theology and Science: Six Models for the Current Dialogue*. Grand Rapids Mich.: William B. Erdmans Publishing Company, 1998.
- Guha, Ramachandra. "The Environmentalism of the Poor." In *Varieties of Environmentalism: Essays North and South*, edited by Ramachandra Guha and J. Martinez-Alier, 3-21. London: Earthscan Publications, 1997.
- Gustavo Gutiérrez. *A Theology of Liberation: History, Politics and Salvation*. Rev. ed. Translated and edited by Sister Caridad Inda and John Eagleson. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 1988.
- Hart, John. "Catholicism." In *The Oxford handbook of religion and ecology*. Edited by R. S. Gottlieb. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. 2006.

- Hathaway, Mark and Leonardo Boff. *The Tao of Liberation: Exploring the Ecology of Transformation*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2009.
- Hawken Paul. *Blessed Unrest: How the Largest Movement in the World Came into Being, and Why No One Saw It Coming*. New York: Viking, 2007.
- Hessel, Dieter T. and Rosemary Radford Ruether, eds. *Christianity and Ecology, Seeking the Well-Being of Earth and Humans*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press for the Harvard University Center for the Study of World Religions, 2000.
- Jantch, Erich. *The Self Organizing Universe: Scientific and Human Implications of the Emerging Paradigm of Evolution*. Toronto: Pergamon Press, 1980.
- Kuhn, Thomas S. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press, Ltd., 1996.
- Küng Hans and David Tracy eds. *Paradigm Change in Theology: A Symposium for the Future*. Translated by Margaret Köhl. New York: Crossroads Publishing, 1989.
- Leopold, Aldo. *A Sand County Almanac: With Essays on Conservation from Round River*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1966.
- Loften, Adam and Patsy Northcutt, eds. *Journey of the Universe: An Epic Story of Cosmic, Earth, and Human Transformation: Educational Series*. DVD. Northcutt Productions, 2011.
- Lovelock, James. *Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1982.
- _____. *The Revenge of Gaia: Why the Earth is Fighting Back and How We Can Still Save Humanity*. London: Allen Lane, 2006.
- Menchú Rogoberta. *I, Rigoberta Menchú: An Indian Woman in Guatemala*. Edited and introduced by Elisabeth Burgos-Debray. Translated by Anne Wright. New York: Verso 1984.
- Merchant, Carolyn. *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology and the Scientific Revolution*. New York: HarperCollins, 1976.
- Midgley, Mary, ed. *Earthy Realism: The Meaning of Gaia*. Charlottesville, Va.: Imprint Academic, 2007.
- _____. "Concluding Reflections: Dover Beach Revisited." In *The Oxford Handbook to Religion and Science*, edited by Philip Clayton and Zachary Simpson, 962-977. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- _____. *Gaia: The Next Big Idea*. London: Demos, 2001.
- _____. *The Myths We Live By*. London: Routledge, 2003.
- _____. *The Solitary Self: Darwin and the Selfish Gene*. Durhman, England: Acumen, 2010.

- Mies, Maria and Vandana Shiva. *Ecofemenism*. London: Zed Books Ltd., 1993.
- Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia. *Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation*. Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 2013.
- O'Murchu, Diarmuid. *Adult Faith: Growing in Wisdom and Understanding*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2010.
- _____. *Ancestral Grace: Meeting God in Our Human Story*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2008.
- _____. *Evolutionary Faith: Rediscovering God in Our Great Story*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2002.
- _____. *Quantum Theology: Spiritual Implications of the New Physics*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Company, 2004.
- Orr, David W. *Earth in Mind: On Education, Environment, and the Human Prospect*. Washington, DC: Island Press, 2004.
- Pierce, Jessica and Marc Bekoff. "Wild Justice Redux: What We Know about Social Justice in Animals and Why it Matters." *Social Justice Research* 25 no. 2 (June 2012): 122-139. doi: 10.1007/s11211-012-0154-y.
- Prigogine, Ilya and Isabelle Stengers. *Order Out of Chaos: Man's New Dialogue with Nature*. New York: Bantam Books, 1984.
- Primavesi, Anne. *Sacred Gaia: Holistic Theology and Earth System Science*. London: New York: Routledge, 2000.
- Ruether Rosemary Radford. "Deep Ecology, Ecofeminism, and the Bible." In *Deep Ecology and World Religions: New Essays on Sacred Ground*, edited by David Landis Barnhill and Roger S. Gottlieb, 229-241. Albany, N.Y.: State University of New York Press, 2001.
- _____. "Ecofeminism and the Challenges of Globalization." In *Ecofeminism and Globalization: Exploring Culture, Context, and Religion*, edited by Heather Eaton and Lois Ann Lorentzen. Landham, vii-xi. Md.; Toronto: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003.
- _____. "Ecofeminist Philosophy, Theology, and Ethics: A Comparative View." In *Ecospirit: Religions and Philosophies for the Earth*, edited by Laurel Kearns and Catherine Keller, 77-93. New York: Fordham University Press, 2007.
- _____. "Toward an Ecological-Feminist Theology of Nature." In *Readings in Ecology and Feminist Theology*, edited by Mary Heather Mackinnon and Moni McIntyre, 89-93. Kansas City, Mo.: Sheed and Ward, 1995.
- _____. *Gaia and God: An Ecofeminist Theology of Earth Healing*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1994.
- _____. *Sexism and God-talk: Toward a Feminist Theology*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1983.

- Scharper, Stephen Bede. *For Earth's Sake: Toward a Compassionate Ecology*. Edited by Simon Appolloni. Toronto: Novalis Publishing Inc., 2013.
- _____. *Redeeming the Time: A Political Theology of the Environment*. New York: Continuum Publishing Company, 1998.
- Schönfeld, Martin. Introduction, "Plan B: Global Ethics on Climate Change." *Journal of Global Ethics* 7, no. 2 (August 2011): 129–136.
- Schweitzer, Albert. *A Place for Revelation: Sermons on Reverence for Life*. Translated by David Larrimore Holland. New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1988.
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- _____. *My Life and Thought: An Autobiography*. Translated by C.T. Campion. London: Allen & Unwin, 1933.
- Sheldrake, Rupert. *The Presence of the Past: Morphic Resonance and the Habits of Nature*. New York: Times Books, 1988.
- Somerville, Margaret A. and David J. Rapport, eds. *Transdisciplinarity: ReCreating Integrated Knowledge*. Oxford, UK: EOLSS Publishers Co. Ltd., 2000.
- Suzuki, David with Amanda McConnell. *The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering Our Place in Nature*. Vancouver: Greystone Books, 2002.
- Swimme, Brian and Thomas Berry. *The Universe Story: From the Primordial Flaring Forth to the Ecozoic Era: A Celebration of the Unfolding of the Cosmos*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1992.
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- Taylor, Bron. *Dark Green Religion : Nature Spirituality and the Planetary Future*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2010.
- Teilhard de Chardin, Pierre. *Divine Milieu*. New York: Harper & Row, 1965.
- _____. *The Phenomenon of Man*. Translated by Bernard Wall. London: Collins, 1960.
- White Jr., Lynn. "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis." In *Worldviews, Religion, and the Environment: A Global Anthology*, edited by Richard C. Foltz, 30-37. Belmont, Calif.: Thomson Wadsworth, 2003.
- Zalasiewicz, Jan, Mark Williams, Will Steffen and Paul Crutzen. "The New World of the Anthropocene." *Environmental Science & Technology* 44, no. 7 (April 2010): 2228-2231. doi: 10.1021/es903118j.