

## **Environmental Philosophy**

PHI 3990

W 6:30-9, J 313

**PURPOSE:** This course offers an historical overview of Eastern and Western traditions as they relate to the human-nature relationship. Topics include the split of spirit and matter in Western philosophy, religion, and science and the nature-degrading roles of unidirectional progress, industrialism, and consumerism. Emphasis will be placed on alternative perspectives that engage Eastern thought, the new physics, and the rise of Environmental Ethics, Deep Ecology, Ecofeminism, Ecopsychology, and Social Ecology. The objective is the development of a worldview that re-envision the sacred in nature.

**READINGS:** *Environmental Philosophy*, Ed. Zimmerman et al. *Dharma Gaia*, Ed. Badiner.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Attendance and Participation(10% and no more than 1 unexcused absence), two exams (50%), one paper (35%), and two presentations (5%).

**Week One-**Introductions and discussion of course objectives

**Week Two-**Intro. to *Environmental Philosophy (EP)* and Foreword and Intro. to *Dharma Gaia (DG)*.

**Week Three-**(*EP*) Regan and Singer on Animal Rights. (*DG*) Moby Ho on Animal Dharma.

**Week Four-**(*EP*) Taylor, Leopold, and Rolston on Environmental Ethics.

**Week Five-**(*EP*) Session's Intro. and Berry on Deep Ecology.

**Week Six-**(*EP*) Warren's Intro. and Merchant on Ecofeminism.

**Week Seven-**Presentations; paper topics and outline due; review.

**Week Eight-**Exam

**Week Nine-**(*EP*) Clark on Social Ecology; Roszak (handout) on Ecopsychology.

**Week Ten-**(*DG*) Halifax and Abraham on Deep Ecology and Buddhism.

**Week Eleven-***(DG)* Macy and Abram on Shifting Views of Perception.

**Week Twelve-**Spring Break.

**Week Thirteen-**Film on American Health and Diet;*(DG)* Devall and Deicke on Ecocentrism.

**Week Fourteen-**film on Alan Watts; *(DG)* Snyder and Snyder on Earth as a Sentient Being.

**Week Fifteen-**Presentations and review.

Week Sixteen--**Exam; Paper due.**

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If you have special needs or a disability for which accommodations may be appropriate to assist you in this class, please contact the Office of Services to Students with Special Needs in Building C-1 on the Niceville Campus, or call 729-5372. The schedule, requirements, and procedures in this course are subject to change in the event of unusual or extenuating circumstances; in such cases, students will be provided with written notice sufficient to plan for and accommodate the changes. If the college closes for inclement weather or other emergency, any exams, presentations or projects or papers due during the closure period will automatically be rescheduled for the first regular class meeting held once the college re-opens. College policies relating to students' rights and responsibilities are discussed in the catalog (pp. 23-27) and will, of course, apply in this class.