

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS AND RELIGION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2015**

**Course** RELS 398 L01: Religion & the Environment  
**Time** MWF 10:---10:50 a.m.  
**Instructor** Anne White  
**Office Hours** Friday 3:00-4:00 p.m.  
**Office** SS 534  
**E-mail** [awhite@ucalgary.ca](mailto:awhite@ucalgary.ca)  
**Telephone** 403 220 3285

**Required Text(s):** Richard Foltz, *Worldviews, Religion, and the Environment*, Thomas Wadsworth Publishers, 2003.

Optional Text(s):

Deane-Drummond, Celia E.	The Ethics of Nature
Gottlieb, Robert	A Greener Faith
Gottlieb, Roger S., ed.,	This Sacred Earth (New York: Routledge, 2004).
Hawken, Paul	The Ecology of Commerce
Kinsley, David	Ecology and Religion
Naess, Arne	The Ecology of Wisdom
Nash, Roderick Frazier	The Rights of Nature
Pogman, Louis P.	Environmental Ethics
Tremblay, Rodrigue	The Code for Global Ethics: The Humanist Principles
Waldau and Patton, eds.	A Communion of Subjects: Animals in Religion, Science & Ethics

The Earth Charter <http://www.earthcharterinaction.org/content/pages/read-the-charter.html>

**Course Description:** This course is designed to present factual information and informed discussion on the subject of religions and their perspectives on environmental ethics and sacred space. Through a review of many leading eco-theologians and environmentalists who seek social and environmental justice, students will be introduced to a variety of global perspectives that address our conduct in and towards nature. What will become evident from this study is that spiritual sensitivity towards the environment has long been a self-evident reality encoded within the world's religions. In contrast to this relevant and enduring system of insight and values, our secular world's perspective has led to an unbalanced and sterile view of physical reality, habitat space, and significance of place, as expressed in and through the environment. Through the perspectives and interpretations of the various writers under review, this course will endeavour to present an alternative to "the death of birth" philosophy that pervades our cultures. Students will be presented with challenging, viable alternatives to this decimation based on knowledge, fact,

and insight into human nature and the problems we face as a species, living ethically in the environment which supports all life forms. Using the diversity and creativity of the perspectives presented, students will be introduced to the richness of ethical thought and depth of meaning that religions offer the enquiring mind.

Course presentation will consist of lectures, assigned readings, films, website information and class discussion.

**Online elements for this course:** D2L course notes, documentary links, Ted-Ed Talks.

**Core Competencies:** Students will develop a number of the skills identified in the University of Calgary statement of learning outcomes. These include: communication, thinking, ethical reasoning, computer literacy, information retrieval, and group effectiveness.

- The assigned readings, lecture material and methodology within the course should develop a student’s ability to think critically (i.e. judge, reflect, and analyze); web notes will further provide dissemination of information and enhance computer skills; preparation for examinations should foster the development of information retrieval and writing competency.
- It is important to remember that the attainment of any learning endeavour requires that students regularly attend lectures, read the required material, and complete all course work.

**Course Requirements:**

Date	Assessment	Weight (%)
Oct. 2	Test	15 points
Nov. 9	Test	15 points
Dec. 7	Essay	30 points
(registrar scheduled)	Final Exam	40 points

**Grading**

A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme, standardized within the Department of Classics and Religion:

A+	100 - 96	A	95 - 90	A-	89 - 85
B+	84 - 80	B	79 - 75	B-	74 - 70
C+	69 - 65	C	64 - 60	C-	59 - 55
D+	54 - 53	D	52-50	F	Under 50

N.B. All written assignments will be graded with regard to both form and content.

### **References and Bibliography:**

The Department of Classics and Religion uses the most recent edition of the Chicago Manual of Style and requires references and bibliographies to adhere to the Chicago citation system. You can find a quick guide here: [http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools\\_citationguide.html](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html). Alternatively please consult with the library staff for help and advice using the Chicago citation style.

### **Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Calgary and has serious consequences. Your essays/presentations must be your own work and inadequate referencing may be seen as plagiarism. Please see the relevant sections on Academic Misconduct in the current University Calendar (section K, which can be found here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. )If you have questions about correct referencing, please consult your instructor, librarian staff or the Chicago manual of style.

### **Student Accommodations**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

### **Desire 2 Learn (D2L) Help**

Go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students> for Student Help and FAQ's about D2L. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are also available on this website.

### **Gnosis**

Gnosis is the Religious Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [gnosis@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gnosis@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~gnosis>.

### **Classics Student Society**

Classics Student Society is the Greek and Roman Studies Student Club. For membership or more information please email: [classsoc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:classsoc@ucalgary.ca) or visit <http://grst.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate/classics-students-society>.

### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- For program planning and advice, students in the Faculty of Arts will contact The Arts Students' Centre (ASC). Drop in at SS102, call at 403-220-3580 or email at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

### **Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representative**

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial and confidential support for students who require assistance and advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. See [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds) for more information.

The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

### **Emergency Evacuation Assembly Point**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at [www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints). Please check this website and not the nearest assembly point for this course.

### **Safewalk**

The Safewalk program provides volunteers to walk students safely to their destination anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). This service is free and available to students, staff and campus visitors 24 hrs/day, 365 days a year. Call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help phones located throughout campus to request a walk.