Religious Studies 193: Religion and Ecology in America
Environmental Studies: 189
Winter 2016

Professor Inés Talamantez
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Lecture: T Th 9:30-10:45AM
Office: HSSB 3069

Location: Arts 1356
Office Hours: Wed. 11:30AM – 12:30PM, Thu. 11 AM - 12 PM, or by appointment

Course Description:
This course will analyze specific themes critical to the understanding of indigenous ways of knowing and the impact of colonialism. We will explore the major factors contributing to the intellectual history of Indigenous America and the contemporary ecological and environmental concerns. The course addresses questions of de-colonization, values, and raising consciousness for balanced living including a discussion of efficient energy use, an evaluation of health risks, and concerns for a sustainable community. Topics include: how perceptions of nature have changed across cultures and over time, how media affects the contemporary American experience both within our inner human nature and the natural world, water and its importance in daily life, and how we experience ourselves and the world. Lectures will be based on the course readings.

Course Requirements:
Class participation is mandatory along with working in a group. Groups will discuss readings on a daily basis and select a member of the group to present to the class the highlights of their discussion (this will be further discussed in class). This requires that each student read and prepare before each class session. A 3-paged abstract will be due during midterms. This abstract will be an outline of your final essay. The final paper must be written in essay format and will focus on readings, lectures, or other class material. Your final paper will be 10-pages and should provide a synthesis based on what you have learned in this course and provide a conclusion for further research. Students will give a 5 minute presentation of their final papers individually on the day assigned by the instructor (in alphabetical order by last name). Everyone must be present during all the oral presentations. Papers are to be turned in before presenting. Late papers will not be accepted.

Grading:
Required attendance and group report on daily discussion = 10%
Abstract (5 pages) = 10%
Final Paper (15 pages) = 35%
Oral Presentation = 35%
Required Texts:

• M. Kat Anderson. *Tending the Wild.* (2005)
• Thomas Berry. *The Dream of the Earth.* (1988)

Course Lectures and Readings:

January 5th: Course Introduction

January 7th: READING DUE: Berry, *The Dream of the Earth.* Chapters 1, 2, 3

January 12th: READING DUE: Berry, *The Dream of the Earth.* Chapters 4, 5, 6

January 14th: READING DUE: Berry, *The Dream of the Earth.* Chapters 9, 10, 11

January 19th: READING DUE: Berry, *The Dream of the Earth.* Chapters 12, 14, 15, 16

January 21st: READING DUE: Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Places.* Chapters 1, 2

January 26th: READING DUE: Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Places.* Chapters 3, 4

January 28th: READING DUE: Anderson, *Tending the Wild.* Chapters 1, 2

February 2nd: READING DUE: Anderson, *Tending the Wild.* Chapters 3, 4


February 9th: READING DUE: Anderson, *Tending the Wild.* Chapter 8


February 16th: READING DUE: Fagan, *Elixir.* Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4


March 1st: Oral Presentations and Final Papers due

March 3rd: Oral Presentations and Final Papers due
March 8\textsuperscript{th}: \textbf{Oral Presentations and Final Papers due}

March 10\textsuperscript{th}: \textbf{Oral Presentations and Final Papers due}