Religious Studies 193: Religion and Ecology in America  
Environmental Studies: 189  
Spring 2014

Professor Inés Talamantez  
Lecture: T Th 9:30-10:45AM  
Location: North Hall 1105  
Office: HSSB 3069  
Office Hours: Tuesday 11 AM - 12 PM,  
Thursday 11 AM – 12 PM or by appointment  
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Course Description:

This course will analyze specific themes critical to the understanding of indigenous ways of knowing. We will explore the major factors contributing to the intellectual history of Indigenous America and 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, and how we experience ourselves and the world. Lectures will be based on the course readings and current religious and environmental concerns in the Americas.

Course Requirements:

Class participation is mandatory along with working in a group. Groups will discuss readings on a regular 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 5 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 15 pages and should provide a synthesis based on what you have learned in this course and provide a conclusion for further research. Students will present 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.

Grading:

Required attendance and group report on daily discussion = 20%  
Abstract (5 pages) = 10%  
Final Paper (15 pages) = 35%  
Oral Presentation = 35%
Required Texts:
- Scott Basso, *Wisdom Sits In Places: Landscape and Language Among the Western Apache*, (WSIP)

RECOMMENDED READINGS:
- Jerry Mander. *In the Absence of the Sacred*. (1991)

Course Lectures and Readings:
April 1: Course Introduction

April 3: READING DUE: Berry, *The Dream of the Earth*, Chapter 1, 2, 3

April 8: READING DUE: Berry, *The Dream of the Earth*, Chapter 4, 5, 6

April 10: READING DUE: Berry, *The Dream of the Earth*, Chapter 9, 10, 11

April 15: READING DUE: Berry, *The Dream of the Earth*, Chapter 12, 14, 15, 16

April 17: READING DUE: Deloria, *God is Red*. Chapters 1 - 5

April 29: READING DUE: Deloria, *God is Red*. Chapters 6 - 9

May 1: READING DUE: Deloria, *God is Red*. Chapters 13, 14

May 6: READING DUE: Deloria, *God is Red*. Chapters 16, 17

May 8: READING DUE: Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Places*. Chapters 1, 2


May 15: READING DUE: Waldau, *Animal Studies*. Chapters 1, 2, 3


May 27: Oral Presentations and Final Papers due
May 29: Oral Presentations and Final Papers due
June 3: Oral Presentations and Final Papers due
June 5: Oral Presentations and Final Papers due
June 6: Oral Presentations and Final Papers due