Syllabus for Religion and Ecology

By the time you finish this course, you will:


2. Have a better sense of how the biological sciences and the scientific method can inform and deepen a religious worldview.

3. Better understand and define your own Ecological Theology or Worldview.

Required Texts (to be read in this order)

Ishmael, Daniel Quinn ISBN 0553375407

The Sacred Balance, David Suzuki ISBN 15553651666 (Greystone, 2007)

The Body of God, Sallie McFague ISBN 0800627350

Staying Alive, Vandana Shiva ISBN 089608793 (South End, 2010)

The Great Work, Thomas Berry ISBN 0609804995

Course Work Requirements:

1. Discussion Forum Postings and Responses

By Friday of each lesson you will post on Discussion Board a 2-page response to the lesson's reading (get started early; there is much to read). During the weekend, but by midnight Sunday, 10 pm, you will respond to at least three of your classmates' responses. This constitutes our weekly conversation. You will do this for five weeks and I will mark the timeliness and quality of your written responses. Late responses will not receive credit. Likewise, flippant or shallow responses will receive less credit. Each lesson is worth 10% of your grade for a total of 50%.

How to Submit Your 2-page Response (I say two pages; you may want to do more; that’s fine.)

You may use one of two methods:

- Submit as a long regular Blackboard Discussion Board post.

- Write your 2-page response as a Word document. Save it to your hard drive. Then start a new Blackboard Discussion Board Post and attach your Word document to the post. Students will be able to click it open to read, and then respond.
2. Paper on Ecological Theology or Worldview

During Unit Three, Lesson Two, you will post a 7-8 page paper on your ecological theology or worldview. It is to be based on the ideas of the authors we have read for this course. You will select the most powerful and persuasive ideas, weave them together into a coherent worldview or adaptation of your existing worldview, and present them to your classmates and me. The paper is to be coherent, concise, interesting and persuasive. It is to be posted according to the dates and time on the calendar and again you are to respond to three papers. Worth 50%.

Instructions on how to submit your paper are given in Unit Three, Lesson Two.

Grading

As outlined above, 10% for each lesson's postings are based on their depth of understanding and being posted on time. This counts for 50% of your grade.

Your ecological theology or worldview, of 7–8 pages counts for 50% of your grade.