

Religion and Nature in Occidental Cultures, including the Americas

May 27, 2005 Draft

* Denotes sources equally pertinent to the RN theory exam and listed there.

I. TRADITIONS

Historical Background

* Diamond, Jared. *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed*. New York: Viking, 2005. Especially Chapter 1 (Montana), Chapter 4 (the Anasazi), Chapter 5 (the Maya), Chapter 6-8 (Norse expansion).

* Glacken, Clarence. *Traces on the Rhodian Shore: Nature and Culture in Western Thought From Ancient Times to the End of the Eighteenth Century*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1967.

Hanegraaff, Wouter J. *New Age Religion and Western Culture: Esotericism in the Mirror of Secular Thought*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1998.

Hughes, J. Donald. *Pan's Travail: Environmental Problems of the Ancient Greeks and Romans*. Baltimore, Maryland: John Hopkins University Press, 1994.

* Merchant, Carolyn. *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology and the Scientific Revolution*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1980.

Oelschlaeger, Max. *The Idea of Wilderness: From Prehistory to the Age of Ecology*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1991.

Taylor, Bron, ed. *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, by Bron Taylor, Editor in Chief. London and New York: Continuum International Publishers, 2005.

- Wide readings on the Abrahamic traditions, starting with the anchor entries in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
- Readings (and key cross-references) on New Age, New Religious Movements, Paganism, Creationism, Science, and Radical Environmentalism
- Readings on Latin American religions and nature, such as Amazonia, Aztec & Inca Cultures, Andean Religions, Umbanda, Spiritism, and Santeria (following cross references)
- Reading on Lynn White's Thesis (and cross references)

[article] White, Lynn. "The Historic Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis." *Science* 155 (1967): 1203-7.

Williams, Raymond. *The Country and the City*. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 1975 (selections tba)

Judaism

Bernstein, Ellen, *Ecology and the Jewish Spirit*

Yaffee, Martin, ed., *Judaism and Environmental Studies* (selections tba)

* Eisenberg, Evan. *The Ecology of Eden*. New York: Random House, 1998.

Hiebert, Theodore. *The Yahwist's Landscape: Nature and Religion in Early Israel*. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 1996

Tirosh-Samuelson, Hava, ed. *Judaism and Ecology: Created World and Revealed Word*. Religions of the World and Ecology. Edited by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2002. [selections]

Christianity

Berry, Thomas. *The Dream of the Earth*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1988.

Birch, Charles and John B. Cobb, Jr. *The Liberation of Life: From the Cell to the Community*. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press, 1981.

Hessel, Dieter T. and Rosemary Radford Ruether, ed. *Christianity and Ecology: Seeking the Well-Being of Earth and Humans*. Religions of the World and Ecology. Edited by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2000. (selections tba)

Ruether, Rosemary. *New Woman/New Earth: Sexist Ideologies and Human Liberation*. New York: Seabury, 1975.

Calvin Redekop, ed., *Creation & The Environment: An Anabaptist Perspective on a Sustainable World*. Johns Hopkins, 2000. (selections tba)

Leonardo Boff, *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1997.

[article] Bishops of the Pacific Northwest, "Pastoral Letter: The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good." February 2002.
(http://www.columbiariver.org/main_pages/Watershed/PDF/english.pdf)

Wallace, Mark I. *Finding God in the Singing River: Christianity, Spirit, Nature*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Fortress, 2005.

Islam

Nasr, Seyyed Hossein. *Religion and the Order of Nature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Khalid, Fazlun and Joanne OBrien. *Islam and Ecology*. New York: Cassell, 1992.

Foltz, Richard, Frederick M. Denny and Azizan Baharuddin, ed. *Islam and Ecology: A Bestowed Trust*. Religions of the World and Ecology: A Bestowed Trust. Edited by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2003. (selections tba)

II. REGIONS

The Americas ~ Precolonial

Antonello Gerbi, *Nature in the New World: From Christopher Columbus to Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo* (selections tba)

Kirkpatrick Sale, *The Conquest of Paradise*

Elizabeth Benson, *Birds and Beasts of Ancient Latin America* (selections tba)

Cabeza de Vaca, *Adventures in the Unknown Interior of America* (selections tba)

Native Traditions in North America

Deloria, Vine (Jr.). *God Is Red: A Native View of Religion*. Updated ed. Golden, Colorado: 1972; reprint, Golden, Colorado: Fulcrum, 1994.

Grim, John A., ed. *Indigenous Traditions and Ecology: The Interbeing of Cosmology and Community*. Religions of the World and Ecology. Edited by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2001. (selections tba)

Nelson, Richard K. *Make Prayers to the Raven: A Koyukon View of the Northern Forest*. Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press, 1983.

Gill, Sam D. *Mother Earth: An American Story*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987.

Basso, Keith. "Stalking with Stories." In *Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape and Language Among the Western Apache*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1996.

Krech, Shepard (3rd). *The Ecological Indian: Myth and History*. New York: Norton, 1999.

[article] Nabhan, Gary Paul. "Cultural Parallax in Viewing North American Habitats." In *Reinventing Nature? Responses to Postmodern Deconstruction*, eds. Michael Soulé and Gary Lease, 87-101. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 1995.

Weaver, Jace, ed. *Defending Mother Earth: Native American Perspectives on Environmental Justice*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis, 1996. (selections tba)

North America

Albanese, Catherine L. *Nature Religion in America: From the Algonkian Indians to the New Age*. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1990.

Emerson, Ralph Waldo. *Nature*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 1986.

Lane, Beldon. *Landscapes of the Sacred: Geography and Narrative in American Spirituality*. New York: Paulist, 1988.

Muir, John. *Nature Writings: The Story of by Boyhood and Youth; My First Summer in the Sierra; The Mountains of California; Stickeen; Essays*. Edited by William Cronon. New York: Library of America, 1997.

Nash, Roderick Frazier. *Wilderness and the American Mind*. 4th ed. 1967; reprint, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1967.

Pike, Sarah. *New Age and Neopagan Religions in America*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2004

Thoreau, Henry David. *The Annotated Walden*. Edited by Philip Van Doren Stern. New York: Barnes and Noble, 1970. (other editions acceptable)

[article] Taylor Bron. "Resacralizing Earth: Pagan Environmentalism and the Restoration of Turtle Island." And the editors' "Introduction" In *American Sacred Space*, eds. David Chidester and Edward T. Linenthal, 97-151. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995.

South America

Reichel-Dolmatoff, Gerardo. *The Forest Within: The Worldview of the Tukano Amazonian Indians*. Totnes, United Kingdom: Themis-Green Books, 1996.

[article] Reichel-Dolmatoff, G. "Cosmology as Ecological Analysis: A View from the Rainforest." *Man* 2, no. 3 (1976): 307-18.

Taussig, Michael. *Shamanism, Colonialism, and the Wild Man*.

Jorge Ventocilla, *Plants and Animals in the Life of the Kuna* (selections tba)

Mesoamerica

Carrasco, David, ed. *The Imagination of Matter: Religion and Ecology in Mesoamerican Traditions*. Oxford: BAR International Series, 1989. (selections tba)

Cynthia Radding, *Wandering peoples: Colonialism, Ethnic Spaces, and Ecological Frontiers in Northwestern Mexico, 1700-1850*

Europe

Frazer, Sir James George. *The Golden Bough: A History of Myth and Religion*. H ed. London: Chancellor Press, 1994.

Hutton, Ronald. *The Triumph of the Moon: A History of Modern Pagan Witchcraft*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Oxford University Press, 2000.

Ivakhiv, Adrian. *Claiming Sacred Ground: Pilgrims and Politics at Glastonbury and Sedona*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2001.

Merchant, Carolyn. *Reinventing Eden: The Fate of Nature in Western Culture*. New York & London: Routledge, 2003.

Pearson, Joanne, Richard H Roberts, Geoffrey Samuel and Richard Roberts, Editors. *Nature Religion Today: Paganism in the Modern World*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1998. (selections tba)

[article] Shnirelman, Victor A. ““Christian! Go home!”: A Revival of Neo-Paganism between the Baltic Sea and Transcaucasia.” *Journal of Contemporary Religion* 17:2 (2002), 197-211.

Thomas, Keith. *Man and the Natural World: Changing Attitudes in England 1500-1800*. Oxford & Cambridge: Oxford University Press, 1996.

RECOMMENDED

General Background

Bateson, Gregory. *Steps to an Ecology of Mind*. New York: Ballantine, 1972.

Bramwell, Anna. *Ecology in the 20th Century: A History*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1989.

Harrison, Robert Pogue. *Forests: The Shadow of Civilization*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992.

Recommended -- Judaism

- Schwartz, Richard. *Judaism and Global Survival*. New York: Atara, 1987.
- Waskow, Arthur, ed. *Torah of the Earth: Exploring 4,000 Years of Ecology in Jewish Thought*. Woodstock, Vermont: Jewish Lights, 2000.
- Alon Tal, "Israel and Environmentalism" in B. Taylor, *The Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature* (Continuum 2005)

Recommended -- Christianity

- Baker-Fletcher, Karen. *Sisters of Dust, Sisters of Spirit: Womanist Wordings on God and Creation*. Fortress, 1998.
- Birch, Charles and John B. Cobb, Jr. *The Liberation of Life: From the Cell to the Community*. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press, 1981.
- Bishops of the Pacific Northwest, "Pastoral Letter: The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good." February 2002.
http://www.columbiariver.org/main_pages/Watershed/PDF/english.pdf
- Fowler, Robert Booth, *The Greening of Protestant Thought* (North Carolina, 1995)
- Hessel, Dieter ed., *After Nature's Revolt: Eco-Justice and Theology* (Fortress, 1992) (selections)
- McFague, Sallie. *Models of God: Theology for an Ecological, Nuclear Age*. Philadelphia, PA: Fortress Press, 1987.
- Sallie McFague, *Life Abundant: Rethinking Theology and Economy for a Planet in Peril* (Fortress, 2000)
- Paul Santmire, *Nature Reborn: The Ecological and Cosmic Promise of Christian Theology* (Fortress, 2000)
- Scharper, Stephen Bede, *Redeeming the Time: A Political Theology of the Environment* (Continuum, 1998)

Other notable

- Birch, Charles, William Eakin and Jay B. McDaniel, eds. *Liberating Life: Contemporary Approaches to Ecological Theology*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1990.
- Campolo, Anthony. *How to Rescue the Earth Without Worshipping Nature*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992.
- McDaniel, Jay B. *With Roots and Wings: Christianity in an Age of Ecology and Dialogue*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1995.
- Moltman, Jürgen. *God in Creation: A New Theology of Creation and the Spirit of God*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1993.
- * Nash, James. *Loving Nature: Ecological Integrity and Christian Responsibility*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1991.
- * Northcott, Michael S. *The Environment and Christian Ethics*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 1996.
- Rasmussen, Larry. *Earth Community, Earth Ethics*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis, 1996.
- Spencer, Daniel T. *Gay and Gaia: Ethics, Ecology, and the Erotic*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim

Press, 1996.

Islam - Recommended

Nasr, Seyyed Hossein. *Religion and the Order of Nature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Khalid, Fazlun and Joanne OBrien. *Islam and Ecology*. New York: Cassell, 1992.

RECOMMENDED – THE AMERICAS

Recommended - Indigenous Societies

Denevan, William M. "The Pristine Myth: The Landscape of the Americas in 1492." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 82, no. 3 (1992): 369-85.

Gill, Sam D. *Mother Earth: An American Story*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987.

Nabhan, Gary Paul. "Cultural Parallax in Viewing North American Habitats." In *Reinventing Nature? Responses to Postmodern Deconstruction*, eds. Michael Soulé and Gary Lease, 87-101. Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 1995.

Nelson, Richard K. *Make Prayers to the Raven: A Koyukon View of the Northern Forest*. Chicago, Illinois: University of Chicago Press, 1983.

Weaver, Jace, ed. *Defending Mother Earth: Native American Perspectives on Environmental Justice*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis, 1996. (selections)

Recommended – North America

Albanese, Catherine L. *Reconsidering Nature Religion*. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: Trinity Press International, 2002.

Burroughs, John. *Accepting the Universe*. Moore Haven, Florida: Rainbow Books, 1987

Cohen, Michael P. *The Pathless Way: John Muir and American Wilderness*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1984.

Cronon, William. "The Trouble with Wilderness; Or, Getting Back to the Wrong Nature." In *Uncommon Ground: Toward Reinventing Nature*, ed. William Cronon, 69-90. New York: Norton, 1995.

[article] Denevan, William M. "The Pristine Myth: The Landscape of the Americas in 1492." *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 82, no. 3 (1992): 369-85.

Graber, Linda. *Wilderness as Sacred Space*. Washington, D.C.: Association of American Geographers, 1976.

Gould, Rebecca Kneale. *At home in nature: modern homesteading and spiritual practice in America*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2005.

Nash, Roderick Frazier. *The Rights of Nature: A History of Environmental Ethics*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 1989. (ok in ethics exam)

Taylor, Bron. "Earthen Spirituality or Cultural Genocide: Radical Environmentalism's Appropriation of Native American Spirituality." *Religion* 17, no. 2 (1997): 183-215.

Taylor, Sarah McFarland. *Green Sisters: Catholic Nuns Answering the Call of the Earth*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, forthcoming 2006 or 2007

Recommended – South America

Reichel-Dolmatoff, Gerardo. *Rainforest Shamans: Essays on the Tukano Indians of the Northwest Amazon*. Totnes, United Kingdom: Themis-Green Books, 1997.

Reichel-Dolmatoff, Gerardo. "Cosmology as Ecological Analysis: A View from the Rainforest." *Man* 2, no. 3 (1976): 307-18.

Slater, Candace. *Entangled Edens: Visions of the Amazon*. Berkeley, California: University of California Press, 2002.

Taussig, Michael. *The devil and commodity fetishism in South America*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1980.