This seminar will examine various religious perspectives on the meaning and value of the natural world and the relationship of human beings to nature. The focus will be on environmental ethics in comparative perspective. We will look at all the major religious traditions, plus such contemporary movements as ecofeminism and deep ecology, to see what conceptual resources they can offer to a contemporary understanding of a healthy relationship with the natural world.

READING

Available in Bookstore:
Bron Taylor, Dark Green Religion: Nature Spirituality and the Planetary Future

On Course Reserve:
The HarperCollins Study Bible
Roger S. Gottlieb, ed., The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Ecology
J. Baird Callicott, Earth's Insights: A Survey of Ecological Ethics from the Mediterranean Basin to the Australian Outback
J. Baird Callicott and Roger T. Ames, eds., Nature in Asian Traditions of Thought
David Landis Barnhill and Roger S. Gottlieb, Deep Ecology and World Religions
David E. Cooper and Joy A. Palmer, eds., Spirit of the Environment: Religion, Value, and Environmental Concern

In Library Reference section:
Lindsay Jones, ed., The Encyclopedia of Religion, 2nd ed.

Journal (in library Periodicals section):
Worldviews: Environment, Culture, Religion (some issues online)

Religion and Ecology book series (on library shelves):
Mary Evelyn Tucker and Duncan Ryūken Williams, eds., Buddhism and Ecology: The Interconnection of Dharma and Deeds (1997)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

1. *Participation* (a of grade). The seminar format requires regular attendance, completion of reading assignments, and active participation in discussion by all members. Necessary absences must be cleared in advance with the instructor; unexcused absences will result in a grade penalty.

2. *Written / oral reports* (a): Two 3-5 page critical responses to specific readings, with short oral presentations in seminar: weeks 3-12. The oral portion will count ¼ of the grade. Papers, which must follow the [Paper Format Guide](#), will be due the Friday following Tuesday oral presentations and Monday following Thursday presentations.

3. *Research paper* (a): A 10-15 page paper (plus bibliography) on any relevant topic, using at least two additional books or articles beyond course readings. Follow the [Paper Format Guide](#) on the course website. The topic and preliminary bibliography must be discussed with me by Thursday, **November 18**. The paper will be due Thursday, **December 16**.

"Solitary Temple Amid Clearing Peaks" (detail), by Li Cheng (China, 10th century)
# SEMINAR SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 7</td>
<td>Tribal cultures</td>
<td>Foltz: ch. 3 (start p. 77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 9</td>
<td>Emerging Religions</td>
<td>Foltz: ch. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 14-16</td>
<td>Judaism</td>
<td>Bible passages [online]:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 21-23</td>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>Bible passages [online]:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>Foltz: ch. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 12</td>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>Foltz: ch. 4 (pp. 112-143), pp. 413-420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 14</td>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>Adler, Introduction to Buddhism (handout) Batchelor, &quot;Even the Stones Smile&quot; (handout)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Foltz: ch. 5

Graham Parkes, "Voices of Mountains, Trees, and Rivers: Kūkai, Dōgen, and a Deeper Ecology," in Tucker and Williams, Buddhism and Ecology [Moodle]

Gary Snyder, "Blue Mountains Constantly Walking," in Snyder, The Practice of the Wild [Moodle]

10 Nov 2-4  China  Foltz: ch. 6 (208-223, 236-244)

11 Nov 9-11  Japan  Foltz: ch. 7

12 Nov 16  Ecocentrism  Foltz: ch. 12 (429-431, 434-455)
Stone [Moodle], Should Trees Have Standing?

Nov 18  Ecofeminism  Foltz: ch. 13 (456-480)
J. Baird Callicott, "Gaia Redux," from Callicott, Earth's Insights (handout)

<<  Thanksgiving Vacation    >>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Reading Material</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Nov 30-Dec 2</td>
<td>Dark Green Religion</td>
<td>Taylor, chs. 2-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Dec 7-9</td>
<td>Dark Green Religion</td>
<td>Taylor, chs. 6-9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Term papers due Thursday Dec. 16
(4:30 pm in my office,
properly formatted and stapled)