

**ASIA 490: Senior Seminar**  
**ASIAN RELIGIONS AND NATURE**

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**Spring 2013**  
Thursdays 7-10 p.m.  
O'Connor seminar room  
Office hours: MWF 3:10-4, Th 2-4  
and by appointment

- [Links for Religion and Nature \(RLST 481\)](#)
- [Bibliography](#)
- [Paper format guide](#)
- [Paper criteria](#)

The Asian Studies senior seminar this year will examine Asian religious perspectives on the meaning and value of the natural world and the relationship of human beings to nature. The areas and traditions covered will be Islam, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Nepal and Tibet, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, and Shinto. Individual research projects will focus on actual environmental problems and solutions in the regions where those religions are practiced.

**READINGS:**

- J. Baird Callicott and Roger T. Ames, eds., *Nature in Asian Traditions of Thought*
- Ole Bruun and Arne Kalland, eds., *Asian Perceptions of Nature: A Critical Approach*
- Moodle readings: please print these out and bring them to class.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Participation** (25% of course grade). The success of a seminar depends on the active participation of all members. Attendance at all meetings is required, unless you have a legitimate excuse *and* inform me about it beforehand. You are expected to have read *all* the assigned material and to participate *every week* in seminar discussion.
2. **Annotated bibliography** on research project (25%), due Feb. 28.
3. **Oral report** on preliminary research (25%), due March 28.
4. **Research paper**: 10-12 pages, plus bibliography (25%). You will give a 20-30 minute presentation on this on May 2, and the final paper will be due May 9.

## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

- 1    Jan 17        **Introduction**  
 Film: "Journey of the Universe"
- 2    Jan 24        **Background (1)**  
 Reading: [Moodle](#):
  - Foltz, "Introduction"
  - Rockefeller, "Introduction"
  - White, "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis"
  - Callicott, "The Historical Roots of Western European Environmental Attitudes and Values"
  - Tu, "Beyond the Enlightenment Mentality"
  - Callicott and Ames, xiii-xxi (Hargrove)
- 3    Jan 31        **Background (2)**  
 Reading:
  - Callicott and Ames, 1-64 (Introduction, Thompson, Morowitz, Callicott)
  - Bruun and Kalland, 1-23 (Introduction)
- 4    Feb 7         **Islam**  
 Reading: [Moodle](#):
  - Foltz, ch. 10
  - Ozdemir, "Toward an Understanding of Environmental Ethics from a Qur'anic Perspective"
  - Nasr, "Islam and the Environmental Crisis"
- 5    Feb 14        **South Asia**  
 Reading: [Moodle](#):
  - Foltz, ch. 4
  - Callicott and Ames, 259-278 (Deutsch, Larson)
  - Bruun and Kalland, 126-172 (Sperber, Sandell)

**6 Feb 21 Southeast Asia**

- Reading:**
- Bruun and Kalland, 47-87 (Boomgaard, Sparkes)
  - [Moodle:](#)
    - Sulak Svaraksa, "True Development"

**7 Feb 28 Buddhism (1)**

Annotated bibliography due

- Reading:** [Moodle:](#)
- Foltz, ch. 5, pp. 161-181
  - Dalai Lama on emptiness
  - Lancaster, "Buddhism and Ecology: Collective Cultural Perceptions")
  - Brown, "Buddhism in Ecological Perspective"
  - Batchelor, "Even the Stones Smile"

<< Spring Break >>

**8 Mar 21 Buddhism (2)**

- Reading:**
- Callicott and Ames, 183-258 (LaFleur, Cook, Inada, Kalupahana)
  - [Moodle:](#)
    - Foltz, ch. 5, pp. 181-207
    - Ingram, "The Jewel Net of Nature"

**9 Mar 28 Nepal and Tibet**

Oral reports

- Reading:**
- Bruun and Kalland, 88-102 (Clarke)
  - [Moodle:](#)
    - Smyer-Yu, "Spirit Mountains, Sacred Sites, and Territorial Charisma"
    - Barnett, "Notes on Environmental Crisis in Tibet"
    - Johnstone, "Journey to the Center of the Earth"

**10 Apr 4 Confucianism and Daoism (1)****Reading:** [Moodle:](#)

- Foltz, ch. 6
- Tucker, "Ecological Themes in Taoism and Confucianism"
- LaFargue, "'Nature' as Part of Human Culture in Daoism"
- Callicott and Ames, 67-78, 113-123, 141-143 (Tu, Ames)

**11 Apr 11 Confucianism and Daoism (2)****Reading:** • Bruun and Kalland, 173-188[Moodle:](#)

- Adler, "Deep Ecology in the *Yijing*"
- Birdwhistell, "Ecological Questions for Daoist Thought"
- Hahn, "Daoist Notions of Wilderness"

**12 Apr 18 Japan (1)****Reading:** [Moodle:](#)

- Foltz, ch. 7
- Callicott and Ames, 153-182 (Tellenbach and Kimura, Shaner)
- Bruun and Kalland, 215-257 (Moeran and Skov, Kalland)

**13 Apr 25 Japan (2) and Conclusions****Reading:** [Moodle:](#)

- Parkes, "Stone and Sacred Space in China and Japan"
- Shaw, "The Way Forward?"
- Callicott and Ames, 279-289 (Epilogue)
- Bruun and Kalland, 258-276 (Pedersen)

**14 May 2 Presentations**

Papers due May 9