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:**

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

**Religion and Ecology book series (on library shelves):**

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

1. *Participation* (⅓ 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* (⅓): 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* (⅓): 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>Aug 26-Sep 2</td>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td>Foltz: Preface (pp. xiii-xv), Introduction, ch. 1 (9-19, 30-37), pp. 431-433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Taylor, <em>Dark Green Religion</em>, pp. 1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Modernity</strong></td>
<td>Foltz: ch. 2 (38-49, 58-75), 561-568, 576-582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tu Wei-ming, &quot;Beyond the Enlightenment Mentality&quot; (from Tucker and Grim, <em>Worldviews and Ecology</em>) [Moodle]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 7</td>
<td><strong>Tribal cultures</strong></td>
<td>Foltz: ch.3 (start p. 77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 9</td>
<td><strong>Emerging Religions</strong></td>
<td>Foltz: ch. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 14-16</td>
<td><strong>Judaism</strong></td>
<td>Bible passages [online]:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Deuteronomy 20:19-20, 22:6-7, 25:4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Isaiah 6:1-3, 24:1-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Psalms 8, 65, 89:6-13, 93, 104, 145:9-16, 147:7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Proverbs 12:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Job 38-41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foltz: ch. 8 (279-296, 306-317)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 21-23</td>
<td><strong>Christianity</strong></td>
<td>Bible passages [online]:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Matthew 6:25-33, Romans 8:18-25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Francis of Assisi, &quot;Canticle of the Creatures&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foltz: ch. 9 (318-342, 349-356), pp. 500-514, 582-590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 28-30</td>
<td><strong>Christianity</strong></td>
<td>Hessel and Ruether, <em>Christianity and Ecology</em>, Introduction, pp. 3-27, 127-134, 497-511 [Moodle]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 5</td>
<td><strong>Islam</strong></td>
<td>Foltz: ch. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 12</td>
<td><strong>South Asia</strong></td>
<td>Foltz: ch. 4 (pp. 112-143), pp. 413-420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oct 14  **Buddhism**  Adler, Introduction to Buddhism (handout)
Batchelor, "Even the Stones Smile" (handout)

*[Moodle]*
Foltz: ch. 5


Oct 28  Dōgen, "Mountains and Waters Sūtra," trans. Carl Bielefeldt  *[Moodle and online]*
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?*

You must discuss your term paper topic with me by Thursday before class.

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

13 Nov 30-Dec 2  Dark Green Religion  Taylor, chs. 2-5
14 Dec 7-9      Dark Green Religion  Taylor, chs. 6-9

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

Summer Mountains After Rain,
by Gao Kegong (13th century)