

Course Syllabus

Eastern Religions and the Environment (Phil 3665 AND Anth 4701-022)

University of North Texas

Course Description

Learning Outcomes

- To understand how members of different religious communities in South Asia have conceptualized nature and the relationship between humans, the divine, and the natural world
- To acquire a working vocabulary that will enable you to speak in an informed way about South Asian religions
- To design and write a research paper around a compelling question related to religion and environmentalism in South Asia
- To be able to articulate the limits and possibilities of employing religious discourse to address a significant social problem
- To examine, challenge and clarify one's own self-understanding, world view and fundamental values

Course Structure

Class time will be divided between lectures, select documentary screenings, and discussions of the required readings.

Instructor

Dr. Pankaj Jain, Email: pankaj.jain@unt.edu, **Phone:** 940-369-6980, **Office Location:** 325J ENV, **Office Hours:** M/W/F 9:30 to 10:30am

Course Meetings

Lectures and Discussions

Days: M/W/F 1 – 1.50PM, **Location:** BLB 270; and on the new Blackboard <http://learn.unt.edu>

Course Materials

Textbooks

REQUIRED:

1. **Hinduism and Ecology: The Intersection of Earth, Sky, and Water** - Christopher Chapple and Mary Evelyn Tucker
ISBN: 978-094-545-4267 **Web Link:** <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?recid=26892>
2. **Jainism and Ecology** - Christopher Chapple
ISBN: 978-094-545-4342 **Web Link:** <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?recid=27422>
3. **Dharma and Ecology of Hindu Communities: Sustenance and Sustainability** – Pankaj Jain **Web Link:** <http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b4022378~S12> (Can be bought from <http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781409405917> (discount code to get 35% discount: PJDEUS35). Can also be ordered by calling Suzanne Sprague at: 802-276-3162 ext. 302.

RECOMMENDED:

1. **Ethical Perspectives on Environmental Issues in India** - George A James
ISBN: 8176480509 **Web Link:** http://www.amazon.com/Ethical-Perspectives-Environmental-Issues-India/dp/8176480509/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1337718068&sr=8-1
2. **Hinduism and Ecology** – Ranchor Prime **Web Link:** <http://www.fov.org.uk/hinduism/hinduism.html>
3. **Purifying the Earthly body of God: Religion and Ecology in Hindu India** – Lance E. Nelson **Web Link:** <http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b2277254~S12>

All the books are also on reserve at the UNT Willis library.

Grading

Grade Components

Component	Weight	Details
Class Preparation and Participation	10%	Class preparation and participation is essential for success in this course. Students are expected to come to class having completed all written, readings, and viewing assignments and should be prepared to actively participate in meaningful discussion about readings in question and/or complete a short fact-quiz or film-review (these will be occasional, but usually unannounced). Active participation includes sharing your questions and comments about the readings or films with the class, engaging your classmates in relevant and meaningful dialogue based on the topics/readings, and participating in other class activities especially the discussion board on Blackboard

Component	Weight	Details
		<p>(http://learn.unt.edu). Class preparation and participation is evaluated using the following criteria:</p> <p>A+ (100%) Outstanding class preparation and class participation. Student meets and exceeds all criteria for "A" (described below).</p> <p>A (95%) Student comes to class prepared, having read and thought about the assigned texts and having completed all written assignments. Student often comes with written notes, and participates actively in class. Student arrives on time, stays the full length of the class, is attentive, responds when called upon, and volunteers frequently with pertinent questions and comments.</p> <p>B (85%) Student is usually prepared, sometimes with written notes, and responds when called upon. Student is attentive, participates in all activities, and volunteers with questions and comments on occasion.</p> <p>C (75%) Student shows evidence of being unprepared from time to time. Due to lack of preparation, student may have some trouble responding to instructor's questions or participating in class discussion/activities. Student does not volunteer often and sometimes comes to class late/leaves early.</p> <p>D (65%) Student is unprepared and/or inattentive. Student never volunteers and regularly comes to class late/leaves early.</p> <p>F (0%) Student exhibits a lack of concern for the class, sleeps in class, or distracts his/her classmates. Student's behavior has a negative effect on the class.</p>
Response Papers	45%	<p>Three short essays (5 pages each) that synthesize your thoughts on the readings, and class discussions. You may write on any topic of your choosing provided that you clear it with the instructor. Ideally, each essay should include discussion of at least two of the course readings or films and should refer to relevant assigned readings and films. Each essay will be worth roughly</p>

Component	Weight	Details
		15% of the total grade. Essays are due on Blackboard website on the following dates: Friday (Week 4), Friday (Week 8), and Friday (Week 12)
Final Project	35%	<p>Write a research essay of minimum 10 full pages (excluding the title, abstract, and bibliography pages), you must cite additional articles and references for this essay (i.e., excluding the references already mentioned in the syllabus below). Due on December 12th, 2012 1pm. The final paper of ten pages must be based on your visit to a Hindu, Jain, or Buddhist temple and research on any aspect of these traditions and ecology. The individual paper will have the following general components: The paper will have a title page and be typed in 12 point font using Times Roman font style. It should be double-spaced. All pages, except the title page should be numbered in the upper right and margin. Margins will be one inch all around. A title page will list the title of paper, date, course name and number, instructor, and contributing group members' names. The first half of the paper should comprise about 3-4 pages of the total 10-page requirement (not including title, bibliography, notes, or reference page), which has the introduction, main issue or question raised by the temple visit and brief description of the socio-cultural and environmental context in which the study takes place. The remaining portion (about 6-7 pages) should be a critical analysis of the case study in terms of theory, method, and/or substantive aspects. The paper should end with a strong conclusion/recommendation statement. Note: This assignment is not a book report and should not be written in such a way. Organizational and analytical abilities in communicating concepts presented in the course readings and class discussion will be evaluated in this exercise. Each paper should have complete bibliographic references given, including web page links. All citations given in the paper should include last name of author, year of publication, and page number. To illustrate, an article by Joe Smith would be cited in the text as (Smith 2003:45). In sum, the paper should have a title page that includes the following general headings: introduction; main issue, problem, or question raised by case study; brief review of the socio-cultural and environmental context of study; group analysis of theory, method, and/or substantive material; and conclusions/recommendations.</p>
Oral Presentations	10%	Each student will be asked to give one short oral presentation over the course of the semester in which they present their your work-in-progress research project.

Requirements for Credit-Only (S/U) Grading

In order to receive a grade of S, students are required to take all exams and quizzes, complete all assignments, and earn a grade of C- or better. Conversion from letter grading to credit only (S/U) grading is subject to university deadlines. Refer to the Registration calendar for deadline (Oct 9, 2012) related to grading.

Policies on Incomplete Grades

- An “Incomplete” is a non-punitive grade given only if a student: (1) has completed 75% of the coursework, (2) is passing the course, (3) and has a justifiable and documented reason beyond the control of the student for not completing the work on schedule (i.e. serious illness or military service).
- The student must complete the coursework within one year of granting the grade of “I”.
- If the student does not complete the coursework within one year, the student’s grade will be changed from “I” to the default grade entered by the instructor or to an “F”.

Late Assignments

Late submissions will be marked down one letter grade per day, except in the case of excused absences. Extensions will be granted only in extenuating circumstances, at the discretion of the instructor, in line with university policy on attendance. In the case of an excused absence, students should submit any missed assignments on the next class day that he/she is in attendance.

Attendance Policy

Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. Some absences may be excused in accordance with the university attendance regulation. Refer to UNT Policy for further information, including the university definition of excused absences.

Absences

For every unexcused absence in excess of 2 (two), your semester grade will be reduced by one percentage point per additional absence. If you accumulate 6 (six) or more unexcused absences, your semester grade will be an F. If you miss more than 10 minutes of a class period (unless pre-approved by me), it will count as an absence; however, you are still encouraged to attend so as not to miss the material covered in class.

Makeup Work

If you miss class for any reason, whether excused or unexcused, you are still be expected to be prepared for the next class. Students should contact a classmate for information on missed material and assignments prior to the next class.

Academic Integrity

Students are required to comply with the university policy on academic integrity found in the Code of Student Conduct. Assignments are intended to assess *individual* knowledge and understanding of the subject matter.

Accommodations for Disabilities

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, student must register with the Disability Services Office. For more information on UNT's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation.

Policy on Discrimination

UNT provides equality of opportunity in education and employment for all students and employees. Accordingly, UNT affirms its commitment to maintain a work environment for all employees and an academic environment for all students that is free from all forms of discrimination. Discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation is a violation of state and federal law and/or UNT policy and will not be tolerated. Harassment of any person (either in the form of quid pro quo or creation of a hostile environment) based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation also is a violation of state and federal law and/or UNT policy and will not be tolerated. Retaliation against any person who complains about discrimination is also prohibited. Any person who feels that he or she has been the subject of prohibited discrimination, harassment, or retaliation should contact the Office for Equal Opportunity.

Course Schedule

Week 1 — Introduction

Introduction: Environmental Ethics in Comparative Perspective: The Historical Roots of our Ecologic Crisis, by Lynn white
<http://www.uvm.edu/~gflomenh/ENV-NGO-PA395/articles/Lynn-White.pdf>

Week 2

Donald Swearer, "Principles and Poetry, Places and Stories: The Resources of Buddhist Ecology."

Tu Weiming, "The Ecological Turn in New Confucian Humanism: Implications for China and the World."

Anil Agarwal, "Human-Nature Interactions in a Third World Country" in Ethical Perspectives on Environmental Issues in India.

Week 3

O. P. Dwivedi, "Dharmic Ecology"; K. L. Seshagiri Rao, "The Five Great Elements (Pancamahabhuta): An Ecological Perspective"; Laurie L. Patton "Nature Romanticism and Sacrifice in Rgvedic Interpretation in Chris Chapple and Mary Evelyn Tucker, eds. Hinduism and Ecology: The Intersection of Earth, Sky, and Water (Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press), 2000.

Video: Drowned out

Week 4

Arvind Sharma, "Attitudes to Nature in the Early Upanishads"; Harold Coward, "Ecological Implications of Karma Theory," in *Purifying the Earthly Body of God*

Video: Science for Survival

Week 5

David Lee, "The Natural History of the Ramayana," Philip Lutgendorf, "City, Forest, and Cosmos: Ecological Perspectives from the Sanskrit Epics,"

Week 6

George A. James, "Ethical and Religious Dimensions of Chipko Resistance,"

Video: An Account of Chipko Movement

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TYuCkn_Pw3E AND *Appiko*:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zuqvGAzDi0>

Week 7

Jain, Pankaj. Ten Environmental Teachings of the Hindu Tradition
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/pankaj-jain-phd/10-hindu-environmental-te_b_846245.html

Ranchor Prime, *Hinduism and Ecology: Seeds of Truth* pp. 1-57
<http://www.fov.org.uk/hinduism/hinduism.html>

Dr. Anil Joshi's visit to the class (<http://hesco.in/drjoshi.php>)

Week 8

In *Hinduism and Ecology* ed. by Chapple and Tucker, Larry Shinn, "The Inner Logic of Gandhian Ecology". Vinay Lal, "Too Deep for Deep Ecology". Guha, Ramachandra, "Third World Critique"

Week 9

Frederique Apffel-Marglin and Pramod Parajuli, "Sacred Grove and Ecology: Ritual and Science," Ann Gold " 'If you Cut a Branch You Cut My Finger': Court Forest and Environmental Ethics in Rajasthan," in *Hinduism and Ecology* ed. by Chapple and Tucker. Chapter 5 "Sacred Groves of Bhils" from the book by Jain, Pankaj.

Week 10

Christopher Chapple, "Jainism and Ecology" pp. 119-140, 193-224

Video: Ahimsa

Week 11 and onwards

Chapters from Jain, Pankaj, "Dharma and Ecology of Hindu Communities".

Videos: Eco-Dharma, Swadhyaya

Presentations by Students based on their Research Papers

Final Paper: Wednesday Dec 12 10:30am-12:30pm