



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

## RLG 285 Religion and Ecology

Winter 2024

**Course Credits:** 4

**Contact Hours:** 56 hours

**Instructor:** TBA

**Email:** TBA

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

---

This course explores the intersection of religion and ecology, examining the ways in which religious beliefs, practices, and traditions shape and are shaped by environmental perspectives and actions. Drawing from case studies provided throughout the class, students will engage with diverse religious traditions to understand their roles in environmental ethics, sustainability, and the quest for ecological justice.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Examine the relationship between religion and environmental attitudes.
2. Explore the ethical dimensions of environmental issues within various religious traditions.
3. Analyze the role of religious institutions in environmental conservation and activism.
4. Understand the impact of religious beliefs on environmental policies and practices.
5. Critically evaluate the contributions of different religious perspectives to contemporary environmental challenges.

### **PREREQUISITES**

---

RLG 100 World Religions

### **GRADING**

---

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the



maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
Critical Analysis Essays	30 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
Final Project and Presentation	40 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$ .

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

## COURSE MATERIALS

### **Required Texts:**

Willis Jenkins, Mary Evelyn Tucker, John Grim, *Routledge Handbook of Religion and Ecology*, 1st Edition, Routledge, 2017.

### **Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:**

Specific readings will be assigned based on class activities.

## COURSE TOPICS

MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<b>Topics:</b> Topic 1: Overview of the Course Topic 2: Key Concepts and Themes in Religion and Ecology Topic 3: Religious Perspectives on Nature Topic 4: Analysis of Religious Worldviews <b>Assessments:</b> Critical Analysis Essay#1



Module 2	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 5: Hinduism Topic 6: Buddhism; Confucianism Topic 7: Judaism; Islam Topic 8: Christianity</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Critical Analysis Essay#2</p>
Module 3	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 9: Indigenous Topic 10: Indigenous (Cont.) Topic 11: Regional Landscapes Topic 12: Regional Landscapes (Cont.)</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Midterm#1 Critical Analysis Essay#3</p>
Module 4	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 13: Responses to Environmental Challenges Topic 14: Religious Environmental Activism Topic 15: Introduction to Ecotheology Topic 16: Exploration of Eco-spiritual Practices</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Midterm#2</p>
Module 5	<p><b>Topics:</b> Topic 17: Disciplinary Intersections: History, Literature, Philosophy Topic 18: Disciplinary Intersections: Policy, Law Topic 19: Disciplinary Intersections: Economics Topic 20: Final Project Presentations</p> <p><b>Assessments:</b> Final Project / Presentation</p>

## ATTENDANCE

1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.



2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

### **LEARNING REQUIREMENTS**

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

### **TECHNOLOGY POLICY**

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (e.g., note taking, reading course documents).

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY**

Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

### **DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION**



蘇州大學  
Soochow University

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.