

ANTH 150 A01

Spirituality, Religion, Eco-ethics, and the Other-than-Human World

INSTRUCTOR: C. William Campbell

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The concepts *religion* and *environment* interact in interesting and often surprising ways. They each inform the other, even though neither concept is quite stable. What we consider *religion*, what we consider the *environment*, as well as how we “ought” to interact with each are always being (re)negotiated. These (re)negotiations often reflect and/or are informed by broader, societal trajectories, such as politics, environmental ethics, and economics.

In this course, students will:

- identify and articulate diverse forms which the relationship between *religion* and *environment* can take
- apply a critical stance toward research literature examining these relationships
- identify how these forms of relationship create the conditions of possibility for different environmental practices

Students should note that this course is not an overview of world religions’ perspectives on the environment. While much of the course will indeed discuss the putative “major world religions”, it will not do so systematically, and much of the course content will discuss religious/spiritual practices that do not properly fit into a “major world religion” category, such as yoga, indigenous spirituality, psychedelic mushrooms, farming disputes, and more. Nonetheless, these practices illustrate the myriad, overlapping, often contradicting ways that *religion* and *environment* interact.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Students will develop the following through participation in this course:

- 1st year academic writing
- Analysis of concepts that may not have obvious, intuitive relationships with each other
- Critical reading of research-based scholarly texts
- A perspective of the course content and the world which accounts for human diversity