

FD-01

CHAMINADE UNIVERSITY OF HONOLULU  
FALL SESSION  
AUGUST 28 - DECEMBER 14, 2001  
MAIN CAMPUS

**COURSE:** Environmental Ethics - RE 331  
**CLASSROOM:** H104  
**CLASS DAYS/TIME:** Tuesdays/Thursdays: 12:30PM - 1:50PM  
**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Malia Dominica Wong, O.P.  
**PHONE:** 676-1452  
**E-MAIL:** srmaliad@juno.com  
**GUEST INSTRUCTORS:** Dr. Gail Ka'aiali'i, Dr. Poranee Natadecha-Sponsel  
**TEXTBOOK:** Badiner, Allan H., ed., *Dharma Gaia: A Harvest of Essays in Buddhism and Ecology*. Parallax Press, 1990.  
Hessel, Dieter T., and Rosemary Radford Ruether, eds., *Christianity and Ecology: Seeking the Well-Being of Earth and Humans*. Harvard Univ. Press, 2000.

**DESCRIPTION**

This course will examine religious perspectives on ethical issues within the context of an ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue in the field of environmental studies, with particular attention paid to contemporary Christian and Eastern ethicists. The course aims to assist students in their study and understanding of the personal and social dimensions of these ethical perspectives and to learn methods for dealing with relevant ethical issues within environmental studies.

**OBJECTIVES**

On the completion of this course students will be able to:

- \*discuss the meaning of morality and ethics and how they impact ecology and environmental issues;
- \*apply the foundations of ethical principles in environmental studies, develop and apply one's own model for moral decision-making and judgment;
- \*discuss the scientific foundations for ecology and environmental studies;
- \*critically examine and articulate the state of the environmental crisis, and develop a personal commitment to life-enhancing action;
- \*explore the ways and means by which religious traditions contribute to solutions for the moral dilemmas created by environmental crises;
- \*develop strategies for helping oneself and others to become more nurtured by nature, by nurturing nature; and
- \*explore and reflect upon the interrelated phenomena of self, others, place and earth in understanding the spirituality of ecology.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL THEMES:**

### **MARIANIST EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND DIVERSITY**

Organizational themes refer to the underlying structural links that contribute to the choice of content, the pedagogy selected for the participation of the teacher/learner and student/teacher in bringing the content to life, and fulfillment of the course objectives within a broader frame of education and community building.

1. The first set of organizational themes around which the course is constructed is drawn from the "Characteristics of Marianist Universities."
  - \*Educate for formation in faith;
  - \*Provide for an integral quality education;
  - \*Educate for family spirit;
  - \*Educate for service, justice and peace; and
  - \*Educate for adaptation and change.
2. The second major organizational theme is diversity and the complex issues that are associated with the theory and practice of criminology and criminal justice within diverse, multi-ethnic and multi-religious communities.

### **Objectives arising from these organizational themes:**

1. Students will incorporate into their presentations and final project an awareness of the Marianist educational characteristics and how they impact on their reading of the texts and themes for the course, as well as their personal philosophy and practice within the field of environmental studies and ethics.
2. Students will research and develop a medium-length paper (7 pages) on the meaning and effects of diversity in the theory and practice of environmental stewardship. This paper is due Nov. 20th.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

Students are to come to each class prepared by having read the assigned readings, completed any other homework assignments and being ready for in-class activities.

## **GRADING**

Due to the team-teaching nature of the course, each of the guest teachers' grade will constitute 30% of the total ( $30\% \times 2 = 60\%$ ) grade for the course. Grading will be based upon regular class attendance, participation, effort and whatever class work, homework, journals, tests, projects, or other that may be assigned by the individual teachers. Papers must be typed, double-spaced, 10 or 12 point font only with 1-1/2" margins. Style must be consistent with the *Scott, Foresman Handbook for Writers*.

Attendance: More than three unexcused absences may result in one grade reduction. Excessive absences may result in failure of the course.

Note: It is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor of any specific special needs or difficulties that one may have in order that the appropriate strategies for the completion of the work may be mutually developed.

### **CATEGORIES**

Dr. Ka'aiali'i	25%
Dr. Natadescha-Sponsel	25%
Dr. Wong	
Class Participation	10%
In-class writings; Quizzes	5%
Paper	5%
Journal	10%
Tests	5%
Term Project	15%

93-100% A; 83-92% B; 73-82% C; 63-72% D; 0-62% F

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **\*Journal:**

The purpose of the journal is to enhance one's awareness of the environment and its influences in everyday life. There are three parts to fulfilling this.

1. Collect newspaper clippings, magazine articles, or other information regarding current environmental issues.
2. Use pictures, images, drawings, poetry, music, art work, paintings and other creative works to express your own meaning of environmental ethics and its importance in your life.
3. With each dated entry, write a short paragraph expressing your understanding of the significance of the entry to this study.

Journals will be collected twice during the semester. Ten entries are due each time. You may put together a comparable video/multi-media presentation.

#### **\*Tests:**

There will be two tests based on the classroom discussions and reading materials.

#### **\*In-class writings; Quizzes:**

Periodically there will be in-class short writings and quizzes over the reading material or reactions to it.

#### **\*Paper:**

Requirements for the "Diversity" paper can be found above under "Organizational Themes."

**\*Term Project: Group Presentation**

The term project is a cumulative one, to be presented during the end of the school year. The criteria is as follows:

1. Select 2-3 other classmates to create a team.
2. Identify an environmental problem in your community.
3. Describe what you see and what you can find out about the problem in local resources.
4. Visit a place where research is being done on your topic. Or, gather information from a minimum of six resources. Or, perform community service in that area.
5. Social analysis. What institutions and cultural/religious/economic assumptions about the environment and natural/human community got us into this problem? How and why did (or do) they contribute to this problem?
6. Values critique. Apply two forms of critique to this problem: scientific assessment of the problem (contact person: Dr. Ka'aiali'i); and values assessment based on a religious worldview (Drs. Natadecha-Sponsel and Wong, or any combination of all three.)
7. Action Plan. Develop your own action plan, integrating Marianist characteristics that focuses on immediate solutions and develop an educational plan for long term cultural and ethical change that will address the recurrence of the kind of problem you are describing.
8. Oral presentation (with notecards and props) due Dec. 4 and Dec. 6

**LEARNING OUTCOME ASSESSMENT**

All student's work will be evaluated for:

- \*knowledge of the subject matter from textbooks, class presentations, group work, discussions, videos, research, outside class activities
- \*ability to apply the knowledge to understand current issues in society
- \*understanding of the subject matter from different viewpoints

**SCHEDULE:**

<b>Week I:</b>	<b>Introduction and Overview</b>	
Aug. 28:	Introduction	C&E xi-xxxii
Aug. 30:	Current Thought on Christianity and Ecology	C&E xxxiii-xxlvii

<b>Week II:</b>	<b>Creator, Christ and Spirit in Ecological Perspective</b>	
Sept. 4:	Losing and Finding Creation in Christian Tradition & Response	
	An Ecological Christianity: Does Christianity Have It? & Resp. <i>C&amp;E</i> 3-46	
Sept. 6:	The Wounded Spirit...& Response	<i>C&amp;E</i> 51-82
<b>Week III:</b>	<b>Creator, Christ and Spirit in Ecological Perspective, cont.</b>	
Sept. 11:	The World of the Icon...	<i>C&amp;E</i> 83-96
Sept. 13:	Test I	
	Due: Topic and list of group members for Term project	
<b>Week IV:</b>	<b>Dr. Gail Ka'aiali'i - Toward Global Security and Sustainability</b>	
Sept. 18:		
Sept. 20:		
<b>Week V:</b>		
Sept. 25	(*Dr. Ka'aiali'i will be handing out her syllabus in class)	
Sept. 27		
<b>Week VI:</b>		
Oct. 2		
Oct. 4		
<b>Week VII:</b>	<b>Dr. Malia D. Wong, O.P. - Vision, Vocation, and Virtues for the Earth Community</b>	
Oct. 9:	St. Francis of Assisi, Patron Saint of Ecologists, Environmentalists, and Conservationists	
Oct. 11:	Christianity's Role in the Earth Project	
	The Human Vocation: Origins and Transformations... <i>C&amp;E</i> 127-154	
<b>Week VIII:</b>	<b>Vision, Vocation, and Virtues for the Earth Community, cont.</b>	
Oct. 16:	Christian Ecological Virtue Ethics... & Response	
	No More Sea: The Lost Chaos of the Eschaton & Resp. <i>C&amp;E</i> 155-198	
Oct. 18:	Test II	
	Due: Journals	
<b>Week IX:</b>	<b>Dr. Poranee Natadecha-Sponsel - Ecofeminism and Dharma Gaia</b>	
Oct. 23:	Ecofeminism: The Challenge to Theology	<i>C&amp;E</i> 97-112
Oct. 25:	Response to R. Ruether...	<i>C&amp;E</i> 113-126
<b>Week X:</b>	<b>Dharma Gaia (text: <i>Dharma Gaia: DG</i>)</b>	
Oct. 30:	Part I & II: Green Buddhism, Views of Perception	<i>DG</i> 3-98
Nov. 1:	Part III: Experiencing Extended Mind	<i>DG</i> 99-146
<b>Week XI:</b>	<b>Dharma Gaia, cont.</b>	
Nov. 6:	Part IV & V: Becoming Sangha, Meditations on Earth	<i>DG</i> 147-216
Nov. 8:	Part VI: Call to Action	<i>DG</i> 217-240

**Week XII: Dr. Malia D. Wong, O.P. - The Universal and Particular in Ethics and Spirituality**

Nov. 13: Seeking Moral Norms in Nature...& Response  
The Moral Status of Otherkind in Christian Ethics C&E 227-289

Nov. 15: Words Beneath the Water... C&E 317-336

**Week XIII: The Universal and Particular in Ethics and Spirituality, cont.**

Nov. 20: Diversity in the Theory and Practice of Environmental Stewardship  
Due: Diversity paper

Nov. 22: Thanksgiving (No Class)

**Week XIV: Christian Praxis for Ecology and Justice**

Nov. 27: Global Eco-Justice... C&E 515-530

Partnership for the Environ... C&E 573-590

Due: Journals

Nov. 29: The Integrity of Creation...

Conclusion: Eco-Justice at the Center  
of the Church's Mission...

C&E 603-614

**Week XV: Review Week**

Dec. 4: Term project: group presentations

Dec. 6: Presentations, cont.

**Week XVI:**

Dec. 11, 12:45PM-2:45PM: Final Exam

\*NOTE: Syllabus subject to change