

Revised syllabus for Weeks 6-7

World Religions & the Environment · Spr 2008 · Neil Banas

Tues 5/6: A critique of Christian legacies

Lynn White, Jr., "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis"

Thur 5/8: The value of Creation

Roberts, "The Soul of DeWitt: An interview with environmental scientist and evangelical leader Calvin DeWitt," *Grist* (grist.org) Oct 17, 2006

reread: Muir's letter to Carr

reread: LaFleur's analysis of Saigyo

Tues 5/13: Dominion, stewardship, and beyond

18th century ecotheology

Donald Worster, *Nature's Economy: A History of Ecological Ideas* (excerpt)

Gilbert White, *The Natural History of Selborne* (excerpt)

contemporary voices: choose one:

Sallie McFague, "Imaging a Theology of Nature: The World as God's Body," in *Liberating Life* (Birch, Eakin, McDaniel, eds.)

Susan Griffin, *Woman and Nature: The Roaring Inside Her* (excerpt)

Thur 5/15: Workshop on applied ethics

We will pick specific environmental issues, and for each issue, ask:

- Would Buddhist and Christian environmentalists approach this issue differently, or come to differing conclusions?
- How could Buddhist or Christian language be useful (for the right audience) in conveying the ethical and practical weight of this issue?

Submit suggestions for issues to analyze by 5/13. My initial list:

- Climate change
- Water conservation
- Sustainable farming (Krysta & Sandley mentioned farming in the context of Leopold way back in week 3)
- Food: deciding what is okay to eat

Supplemental:

Genesis 1-3

Smith, "Christianity," from *The World's Religions* (handout)