Religion and Nature in Occidental Cultures, including the Americas
May 27, 2005 Draft

* Denotes sources equally pertinent to the RN theory exam and listed there.

I. TRADITIONS

Historical Background

* Diamond, Jared. Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed. New York: Viking, 2005. Especially Chapter 1 (Montana), Chapter 4 (the Anasazi), Chapter 5 (the Maya), Chapter 6-8 (Norse expansion).


- Wide readings on the Abrahamic traditions, starting with the anchor entries in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
- Readings (and key cross-references) on New Age, New Religious Movements, Paganism, Creationism, Science, and Radical Environmentalism
- Readings on Latin American religions and nature, such as Amazonia, Aztec & Inca Cultures, Andean Religions, Umbanda, Spiritism, and Santeria (following cross references)
- Reading on Lynn White’s Thesis (and cross references)


**Judaism**

Bernstein, Ellen, *Ecology and the Jewish Spirit*

Yaffee, Martin, ed., *Judaism and Environmental Studies* (selections tba)


**Christianity**


**Islam**


**II. REGIONS**

**The Americas ~ Precolonial**

Antonello Gerbi, *Nature in the New World: From Christopher Columbus to Gonzalo Fernandez de Oviedo* (selections tba)

Kirkpatrick Sale, *The Conquest of Paradise*

Elizabeth Benson, *Birds and Beasts of Ancient Latin America* (selections tba)

Cabeza de Vaca, *Adventures in the Unknown Interior of America* (selections tba)

**Native Traditions in North America**


**North America**


**South America**


Taussig, Michael. *Shamanism, Colonialism, and the Wild Man*. 

4
Jorge Ventocilla, *Plants and Animals in the Life of the Kuna* (selections tba)

**Mesoamerica**


Cynthia Radding, *Wandering peoples: Colonialism, Ethnic Spaces, and Ecological Frontiers in Northwestern Mexico, 1700-1850*

**Europe**


**RECOMMENDED**

**General Background**


**Recommended -- Judaism**


**Recommended -- Christianity**

Fowler, Robert Booth, *The Greening of Protestant Thought* (North Carolina, 1995)
Sallie McFague, *Life Abundant: Rethinking Theology and Economy for a Planet in Peril* (Fortress, 2000)

*Other notable*

Islam - Recommended


RECOMMENDED – THE AMERICAS

Recommended - Indigenous Societies


Recommended – North America


**Recommended – South America**


