This reading list is for students taking both an exam in religion and nature theory, and another exam in religion and nature in Occidental cultures and history. Reading lists for individual students may be modified by negotiation with committee members.

Required books and articles


Cronon, William, Ed. (1995). *Uncommon ground: toward reinventing nature.* New York, Norton. Esp. Cronon, “The trouble with wilderness; or, getting back to the wrong nature” (69-90), and “Toward a Conclusion” 447-460; Carolyn Merchant, “Reinventing Eden: western culture as a recovery narrative.” The entire book has been widely read among environmental studies scholars and the rest is highly recommended. Contrast with Soule and Lease, and Sutter (below)


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


  - Michael Soulé “The social siege of nature” 137-170.


Abrahamic traditions entries, starting with the anchor entries in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
- Latin American religions and nature entries, such as Amazonia, Aztec & Inca Cultures, Andean Religions, Umbanda, Spiritism, and Santeria (following cross references)


### Specific Traditions & Regions

Responsibility for these depends on student focus and will be negotiated with dissertation committee. Below are some important sources in the given areas. Some are influential primary sources; most are scholarly analyses.

**Judaism**

 Bernstein, Ellen, *Ecology and the Jewish Spirit*

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


Christianity
Sallie McFague, *Life Abundant: Rethinking Theology and Economy for a Planet in Peril* (Fortress, 2000)
Islam
(selections tba)

Native Traditions in North America
Weaver, Jace, ed. Defending Mother Earth: Native American Perspectives on Environmental Justice. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis, 1996. (selections to be assigned)

North America (misc. including Nature Religion, Environmentalism, Paganism)
Austin, Mary Hunter. 1997 [1903]. The Land of Little Rain, with introduction by Terry Tempest Williams (New York: Penguin).


Glendinning, Chellis. 1994. *My Name is Chellis and I'm in Recovery from Western Civilization* (Boston: Shambhala).


### 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)

### South America

- Taussig, Michael. *Shamanism, Colonialism, and the Wild Man*.
- Ventocilla, Jorge. *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
**Additional Resources**


• Georgina Drew, “A retreating Goddess? Conflicting perceptions of ecological change near the Gangotri-Gaumukh glacier”
• Noor Johnson, “Healing the Land” in the Canadian Arctic: Evangelism, knowledge, and climate change.
• Robin Globus Veldman, Andrew Szasz, and Randolph Haluza-Delay, “Climate change and religion as global phenomena: Summing up and directions for further research” (volume conclusion)
• Also, Hermesse (evangelical Christians and Mayan cosmology in Guatemala) and Nita (Christian and Muslim climate activists in Great Britain), Agliardo (on US Catholics).

North America

Anthologies and Textbooks