# Course ###: Religion and Environmental Advocacy

# Prof. Whittney Barth Executive Director, Center for the Study of Law and Religion Emory University School of Law whittney.barth@emory.edu

#### **Course Description**

This course examines the role of religious ideas, institutions, and people in shaping environmental law and policy primarily in the United States. The course draws upon legal history, American studies, environmental history, comparative religion, and theology, among other areas of scholarship. The learning objectives for this course include:

- 1) to understand the role(s) of religious beliefs, ideas, and activism within debates about environmental issues in U.S. history to the present;
- 2) to explore in comparative perspective how religiously-infused language/framing in these debates is employed to justify action and to foster a sense of place or connectedness; and
- 3) to consider different arguments about whether and how religious justifications for legal action ought to be employed in public life, and the future of such activism given recent trends in religious adherence and growing environmental concerns.

#### **Course Structure**

Class sessions will be a combination of lectures and discussions. Questions accompany each week's reading list and students will be responsible for submitting two responses via Canvas throughout the course, each responding to one question assigned for that week. A sign-up will be posted on Canvas prior to our first week class to ensure each week has coverage.

One of our class sessions will be devoted to a topic germane to the course focus and selected by the class. The instructor will present the class with a few options early in the semester. Once the class has selected the topic, readings for that session will be posted shortly thereafter.

During one of our final class sessions, we will be joined via Zoom by individuals working at the intersection of law, religion, and the environment. More details about the panelists will be provided early in the course.

For the final project, students will be responsible for drafting an amicus brief on behalf of one or more religious group. Final projects will be completed in small groups of 2-3 students. One (or two, as needed) of our final class sessions will be reserved for student presentations of their projects.

# PART I: RELIGION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, KINDRED SPIRITS OR UNCERTAIN COMPANIONS?

#### 1. Religion in the Making of Nature and Conservation in America

#### Readings

- John Muir, "Preface," in Our National Parks, Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1901.
  - https://vault.sierraclub.org/john\_muir\_exhibit/writings/our\_national\_parks/#preface.
- [Press Release] Thurman Wilkins, *John Muir: Apostle of Nature*, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995,

  https://yault.sierraclub.org/john\_muir\_eyhibit/press\_releases/john\_muir\_apostle\_of\_natur\_
  - https://vault.sierraclub.org/john\_muir\_exhibit/press\_releases/john\_muir\_apostle\_of\_natur\_e\_by\_thurman\_wilkins.aspx.
- Karl Jacoby, *Crimes Against Nature*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001, pp.1-7, 149-190.
- Bryan McDonald. "CONSIDERING THE NATURE OF WILDERNESS: Reflections on Roderick Nash's 'Wilderness and the American Mind." *Organization & Environment*, vol. 14, no. 2, 2001, pp. 188–201. *JSTOR*, http://www.jstor.org/stable/26161570.
- Leo Marx, "The Idea of Nature in America," *Dædalus*, Spring 2008, https://www.amacad.org/publication/idea-nature-america.

# Questions

- In what ways, and to what end(s), was religious language and imagery employed in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century writings about nature?
- Prior to this week's readings, had you considered the ways in which nature is constructed as an idea or in collective imaginations? What has influenced your own conceptualizations of nature?
- What connections do you see (if any) between our collective imaginings about nature, its scope, and its purpose(s) and the law?

#### Further Reading

- Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Nature*, Boston: James Munroe and Company, 1836, available online in *The Complete Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson: Nature Addresses and Lectures* (Vol. 1), University of Michigan Libraries,
  - https://quod.lib.umich.edu/e/emerson/4957107.0001.001/1:9?rgn=div1;view=fulltext.
- John Muir, *Our National Parks*, Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1901, <a href="https://vault.sierraclub.org/john muir exhibit/writings/our national parks/">https://vault.sierraclub.org/john muir exhibit/writings/our national parks/</a>.

# 2. Interpreting the "Eleventh Commandment"

#### Readings

- W.C. Loudermilk, "The Eleventh Commandment," Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, June 22, 1939, https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.31210024997627&view=1up&seq=3.
- White, Lynn. "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis." *Science*, vol. 155, no. 3767, 1967, pp. 1203–07. *JSTOR*, <a href="http://www.jstor.org/stable/1720120">http://www.jstor.org/stable/1720120</a>.
- Pope Francis, "Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si* of the Holy Father Francis On Care for Our Common Home, May 24, 2015,
   <a href="https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco/20150524">https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco/20150524</a> enciclica-laudato-si.html.
- Rabbi Daniel Swartz, "*Laudato Si* and the Sages: Reflections on Climate Justice," Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, http://www.coejl.org/uploads/1/2/0/0/120031968/coejl laudato si and the sages.pdf.
- Jeff Diamant, "Sidebar: Involvement by Religious Groups in Debates Over Climate Change," Pew Research Center, Nov. 17, 2022, <a href="https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/11/17/sidebar-involvement-by-religious-groups-in-debates-over-climate-change/">https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/11/17/sidebar-involvement-by-religious-groups-in-debates-over-climate-change/</a>.
- Becka A. Alper, "Report: How Religion Intersects with American's Views on the Environment," Pew Research Center, Nov. 17, 2022, <a href="https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/11/17/how-religion-intersects-with-americans-views-on-the-environment/">https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/11/17/how-religion-intersects-with-americans-views-on-the-environment/</a>.

#### Questions

- In 1967 essay in *Science*, Lynn White argues that religious conceptions of the relationship between humans and the rest of the natural world are at the root of our ecological crisis. Do you find his argument compelling? Why or why not?
- What is/are your response(s) to Loudermilk's 1939 pamphlet for the Soil Conservation Service in which he employs biblical imagery to forge a more ecologically-sound relationship between humans and the rest of the natural world?

#### Further Reading

- Chuvieco, Emilio, et al. "Impacts of Religious Beliefs on Environmental Indicators: Is Christianity More Aggressive Than Other Religions?" *Worldviews*, vol. 20, no. 3, 2016, pp. 251–71. *JSTOR*, <a href="https://www.jstor.org/stable/26552264">https://www.jstor.org/stable/26552264</a>.
- Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, "Nature in the Sources of Judaism," *Dædalus*, Fall 2001, <a href="https://www.amacad.org/publication/nature-sources-judaism">https://www.amacad.org/publication/nature-sources-judaism</a>.
- Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, "U.S. Religious Landscape Study: Views on Environmental Regulation," Pew Research Center, 2014, <a href="https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/religious-landscape-study/views-about-environmental-regulation/">https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/religious-landscape-study/views-about-environmental-regulation/</a>.

#### 3. Partnership for Environmental Protection

# Readings

- "Statement by Religious Leaders at the Summit on Environment," June 1991, reprinted in *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, and the Environment*, ed. Roger S. Gottlieb (New York: Routledge, 2004), 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, pp. 731–34.
- "Declaration of the 'Mission to Washington'," May 12, 1992, reprinted in *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, and the Environment*, ed. Roger S. Gottlieb (New York: Routledge, 2004), 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, pp. 735–37.
- Interfaith Power & Light, "Programs and Campaigns," https://interfaithpowerandlight.org/programs/.
- Nadia B. Ahmad, "Faith-Based Approaches to Ecological Harmony and Environmental Protection," 21 Rutgers RACE & L. REV. 1 (2020), https://lawpublications.barry.edu/facultyscholarship/199/.
- John Copeland Nagle, "Christianity and Environmental Law," in Christian Perspectives on Legal Thought, Michael McConnell et al., eds., New Haven: Yale University Press, 2008. https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.12987/9780300130065/html.
- Gerstenfeld, Manfred. "Jewish Environmental Studies: A New Field." *Jewish Political Studies Review* 13, no. 1/2 (2001): 3–62. http://www.jstor.org/stable/25834503.

#### Questions

- In this week's readings, we encounter partnerships from different angles—across different religious traditions, across "philosophical differences" between religion and science, and across disciplines of religion, theology, and law, to name a few. What are the stated aims of these partnerships? Do those aims differ from reading to reading? If so, how?
- What are some of the challenges of these partnerships?
- If you were asked to evaluate the effectiveness of these partnerships, what metrics would you use? How would these collaborations fare based on those metrics?

#### Further Readings

- Philip J. Bentley, "Do Not Destroy," *Tablet Magazine*, April 20, 2023, <a href="https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/belief/articles/do-not-destroy-jewish-environmentalism">https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/belief/articles/do-not-destroy-jewish-environmentalism</a>.
- Rebecca Olds, "Interfaith Work is Moving Beyond Dialogue and Entering ... The Climate Scene?" *Desert News*, Sept. 6, 2022, <a href="https://www.deseret.com/faith/2022/9/6/23319912/faiths-combat-climate-change-together-interfaith-activism">https://www.deseret.com/faith/2022/9/6/23319912/faiths-combat-climate-change-together-interfaith-activism</a>.
- National Religious Partnership for the Environment, http://www.nrpe.org.

# PART II: CONSTRUCTING NORMS, RIGHTS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### 4. Religious Freedom and Environmental Protection

#### Readings

- Clark Mindock, "Catholic Nuns Lose Religious Battle Against Pennsylvania Pipeline," Reuters, Nov. 8, 2022, <a href="https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/catholic-nuns-lose-religious-battle-against-pennsylvania-pipeline-2022-11-08/">https://www.reuters.com/legal/litigation/catholic-nuns-lose-religious-battle-against-pennsylvania-pipeline-2022-11-08/</a>.
  - o Complaint (filed July 14, 2017): <a href="https://www.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/PENNSYLVANIA-NUNS.pdf">https://www.courthousenews.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/PENNSYLVANIA-NUNS.pdf</a>
  - U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit Opinion: https://fingfx.thomsonreuters.com/gfx/legaldocs/dwpkdgwrlvm/adorers.pdf
- Lawrence Hurley, "Dakota Access Pipeline Suffers U.S. Supreme Court Setback," *Reuters*, Feb. 22, 2022, <a href="https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-supreme-court-turns-away-dakota-pipeline-operators-appeal-2022-02-22/">https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-supreme-court-turns-away-dakota-pipeline-operators-appeal-2022-02-22/</a>.
- Nadia Ahmad, "Recognizing the Role of Religion in Environmental Legal Norms, 32 St. Thomas Law Review 24 (2020), https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=3581663.
- Douglass F. Rohrman, "Religion, law, and the environment" *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*, 5: 51-51 (2007), <a href="https://doi.org/10.1890/1540-9295(2007)5[51:RLATE]2.0.CO;2">https://doi.org/10.1890/1540-9295(2007)5[51:RLATE]2.0.CO;2</a>.
- Paul Hond, "Can the World's Religions Help Save Us from Ecological Peril?," *Columbia Magazine*, Winter 2022-2023, <a href="https://magazine.columbia.edu/article/can-worlds-religions-help-save-us-ecological-peril">https://magazine.columbia.edu/article/can-worlds-religions-help-save-us-ecological-peril</a>.

#### Questions

- Are there limits to using religious freedom arguments to protect the environment? If so, what are those limits and what factors are (or should be) used to determine them?
- How would you describe the different ways in which religion is employed in arguments to establish legal rights or norms touching upon environmental concerns?

#### 5. Religious Land Use

#### Readings

- Kellen Zale, God's Green Earth? The Environmental Impacts of Religious Land Use, 64 Me. L. Rev. 207 (2011), <a href="https://digitalcommons.mainelaw.maine.edu/mlr/vol64/iss1/8">https://digitalcommons.mainelaw.maine.edu/mlr/vol64/iss1/8</a>.
- Jay Wexler, "Chapter 1. Religious Practice Versus the Environment: An Overview," in When God Isn't Green: A Worldwide Journey to Places Where Religious Practice and Environmentalism Collide, Boston: Beacon Press, 2016.
- Michael McNally, "Standing Rock, Bears Ears, and Native American Religious Freedom," Princeton University Press, May 15, 2020,

https://press.princeton.edu/ideas/standing-rock-bears-ears-and-native-american-religious-freedom.

 Whitney Bauck, "The Catholic Cartographer Who Wants to Help the Church Fight Climate Change," MIT Technology Review, June 22, 2023, <a href="https://www.technologyreview.com/2023/06/22/1074262/cartographer-fights-climate-change">https://www.technologyreview.com/2023/06/22/1074262/cartographer-fights-climate-change</a>.

#### **Questions**

- What competing interests did you encounter in this week's readings?
- How was land conceptualized in this week's readings? What differences, if any, did you see in how different religious communities' relationship to land was discussed?
- What perspectives were missing from this week's readings?

# Further Reading

Beacon Broadside, "Can Religious Practice and Environmental Protection Coexist? Q&A with Jay Wexler," March 30, 2016,
 <a href="https://www.beaconbroadside.com/broadside/2016/03/can-religious-practice-and-environmental-protection-coexist.html">https://www.beaconbroadside.com/broadside/2016/03/can-religious-practice-and-environmental-protection-coexist.html</a>

# 6. Responding to Environmental Catastrophe Case Study: Earth Day

#### Readings

- Paul Greenberg and Carl Safina, "The Case for Making Earth Day a Religious Holiday," *TIME Magazine*, April 21, 2023, https://time.com/6273684/earth-day-religious-holiday/.
- Robert A. Sirico, "The False Gods of Earth Day," The Acton Institute, April 22, 1994, <a href="https://www.acton.org/public-policy/environmental-stewardship/eco-spirit/false-gods-earth-day">https://www.acton.org/public-policy/environmental-stewardship/eco-spirit/false-gods-earth-day</a>.
- Philip Long, "How Should Christians Respond to Earth Day?" *Cru*, undated, <a href="https://www.cru.org/us/en/blog/share-the-gospel/evangelism/how-should-christians-respond-to-earth-day.html">https://www.cru.org/us/en/blog/share-the-gospel/evangelism/how-should-christians-respond-to-earth-day.html</a>.
- Sakshi Venkatraman, "As Eid and Earth Day Coincide, Young Muslims are Driving the Modern Climate Movement," NBC News, April 21, 2023, <a href="https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/eid-earth-day-coincide-young-muslims-are-driving-modern-climate-moveme-rcna80485">https://www.nbcnews.com/news/asian-america/eid-earth-day-coincide-young-muslims-are-driving-modern-climate-moveme-rcna80485</a>.
- Fatima Ashraf, In Islam, Every Day is Earth Day," The Eco Muslim Blog, Oct. 22, 2010, <a href="https://www.theecomuslim.co.uk/2010/11/in-islam-every-day-is-earth-day.html">https://www.theecomuslim.co.uk/2010/11/in-islam-every-day-is-earth-day.html</a>.
- Rabbi Stephen Lewis Fuchs, "Every Day is Earth Day: Jewish Holidays and Environmental Justice," ReformJudaism.org, undated, <a href="https://reformjudaism.org/beliefs-practices/social-justice-reform-judaism/every-day-earth-day-jewish-holidays-and-environmental-justice">https://reformjudaism.org/beliefs-practices/social-justice-reform-judaism/every-day-earth-day-jewish-holidays-and-environmental-justice</a>.
- Al Gore, "Chapter 13: Environmentalism of the Spirit," in *Earth in the Balance: Ecology and the Human Spirit* (New York: Rodale), pp. 238-268, 2006.

Brian Roewe, "Ahead of Earth Day, 31 Faith Organizations Divest from Fossil Fuels,"
National Catholic Reporter, April 20, 2023,
<a href="https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat/faith/ahead-earth-day-31-faith-organizations-divest-fossil-fuels">https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat/faith/ahead-earth-day-31-faith-organizations-divest-fossil-fuels</a>.

#### Questions

- Why was Earth Day established and why was/is it understood as an important step in the environmental movement?
- What are some of the arguments from for and against celebrating Earth Day?
- How do different religious organizations use the language of Earth Day to connect their own traditions to environmental action?

# 7. Responding to Environmental Catastrophe: The COVID-19 Pandemic

#### Readings

- Choose 4 essays to read from the following series: Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, & World Affairs, "Religion and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Environmental Health," April 2020, <a href="https://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/posts/religion-and-the-covid-19-pandemic-environmental-health">https://berkleycenter.georgetown.edu/posts/religion-and-the-covid-19-pandemic-environmental-health</a>.
- United Nations Environment Programme, Coronavirus, Faith Leaders, and Sustainable Development, April 2, 2020, <a href="https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/coronavirus-faith-leaders-and-sustainable-development">https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/coronavirus-faith-leaders-and-sustainable-development</a>.

#### **Questions**

- Why include COVID-19 in a course dealing with religion, law, and the environment?
- In what ways do this week's readings connect with themes or readings explored so far in the course?

#### PART III: LOCAL, STATE, INTER/NATIONAL ADVOCACY

# 8. Federal Law, Initiatives, and Advocacy

# Readings

• Read the following summaries of environmental laws and executive orders, available at Environmental Protection Agency, "Laws and Executive Orders," https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/laws-and-executive-orders:

- Summary of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq. (1972), <a href="https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-clean-water-act">https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-clean-water-act</a> (including links under "History of this Act" subsection)
- o Summary of the Endangered Species Act, 16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq. (1973), <a href="https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-endangered-species-act">https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-endangered-species-act</a>.
- Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency, No. 21-454, Brief amici curiae of Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, et al., June 17, 2022, <a href="https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/21/21-454/228237/20220617081619977\_21-454%20Amicus%20Menominee%20Indian%20Tribe%20Of%20Wisconsin.pdf">https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/21/21-454/228237/20220617081619977\_21-454%20Amicus%20Menominee%20Indian%20Tribe%20Of%20Wisconsin.pdf</a>.
  - For additional background on Sackett v. EPA, see the SCOTUSblog case page: <a href="https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/sackett-v-environmental-protection-agency/">https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/sackett-v-environmental-protection-agency/</a>.
- Weyerhaeuser Company v. United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Brief amici curiae of The Evangelical Environmental Network, et al., July 3, 2018, <a href="https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/17/17-71/52164/20180703130607218">https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/17/17-71/52164/20180703130607218</a> 36532%20Wey%20Ami%20Fai%20Brief.pdf.
  - o For additional background on *Weyerhaeuser v. USFWS*, see the SCOTUSblog case page: <a href="https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/weyerhaeuser-company-v-united-states-fish-wildlife-service/">https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/weyerhaeuser-company-v-united-states-fish-wildlife-service/</a>.
- Brian Roewe, "Faith Groups, Environmental Justice Advocates Urge EPA to Go Further in New Soot Pollution Rules," *National Catholic Reporter*, Jan. 17, 2023, <a href="https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat/politics/faith-groups-environmental-justice-advocates-urge-epa-go-further-new-soot">https://www.ncronline.org/earthbeat/politics/faith-groups-environmental-justice-advocates-urge-epa-go-further-new-soot</a>.
- E.A. Crunden, "How Faith Groups Helped Pass the Climate Law, *E&E Daily*, Sept. 7, 2022, <a href="https://www.eenews.net/articles/how-faith-groups-helped-pass-the-climate-law/">https://www.eenews.net/articles/how-faith-groups-helped-pass-the-climate-law/</a>.

#### Questions

- How is the substance of the two amici curiae briefs in today's readings like other types of readings encountered so far in this course? How are they different?
- What are some of the challenges federal or national initiatives face when confronting environmental concerns?

# Further Readings

- ENERGY STAR, "ENERGY STAR for Congregations," https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/resources audience/congregations.
- Summary of Executive Order13859 Maintaining American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence, 84 FR 3967; February 14, 2019, <a href="https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-executive-order-13859-maintaining-american-leadership-artificial">https://www.epa.gov/laws-regulations/summary-executive-order-13859-maintaining-american-leadership-artificial</a>.

#### 9. Select State and Local Initiatives

#### Readings

- Nicole Greenfield, "Colorado's Religious Communities See Climate Action as Moral Obligation, National Resource Defense Council, Dec. 22, 2022, <a href="https://www.nrdc.org/stories/colorados-religious-communities-see-climate-action-moral-obligation">https://www.nrdc.org/stories/colorados-religious-communities-see-climate-action-moral-obligation</a>.
- Interfaith Global Climate Change Campaign, North Carolina Chapter, "Statement on Global Warming and Climate Change by North Carolina's Religious and Spiritual Leaders," reprinted in *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, and the Environment*, ed. Roger S. Gottlieb (New York: Routledge, 2004), 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, pp. 727–28.
- NY Renews, "What We Do," <a href="https://www.nyrenews.org/what-we-do">https://www.nyrenews.org/what-we-do</a>.
- Britny Cordera, "How St. Louis Churches are Revealing the Disparities in the Air We Breathe," *Next City*, Sept. 14, 2022, <a href="https://nextcity.org/urbanist-news/how-st-louis-churches-are-revealing-the-disparities-in-the-air-we-breathe">https://nextcity.org/urbanist-news/how-st-louis-churches-are-revealing-the-disparities-in-the-air-we-breathe</a>.
- Ryan Juskus, "'Citizen Science,' Environmental Action, and Religious Pluralism," The Immanent Frame, April 10, 2020, <a href="https://tif.ssrc.org/2020/04/10/citizen-science-environmental-action-religious-pluralism/">https://tif.ssrc.org/2020/04/10/citizen-science-environmental-action-religious-pluralism/</a>.
- Citizenscience.gov, "About," <a href="https://www.citizenscience.gov/about/#">https://www.citizenscience.gov/about/#</a>.

#### Questions

- Which local or state initiatives to address environmental concerns stood out to you from this week's readings and why?
- What role, if any, do you see "citizen science," playing in addressing environmental concerns?
- What are some of the challenges local or state initiatives face when confronting environmental concerns?

#### 10. International Efforts

#### Readings

- Ahmed Al-Dawoody and Sarah Gale, "Protecting the Environment During Armed Conflict: IHL and Islamic Law," International Committee for the Red Cross, June 3, 2021, <a href="https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2021/06/03/protecting-environment-armed-conflict-ihl-islamic-law/">https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2021/06/03/protecting-environment-armed-conflict-ihl-islamic-law/</a>.
- Iyad Abumoghli, "Reimagining the Human-Environment Relationship: Religion and the Environment, United Nations University, May 2022, <a href="http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:8838/UNUUNEP Abumoghli RHER.pdf">http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:8838/UNUUNEP Abumoghli RHER.pdf</a>.
- William Avis, *Role of faith and belief in environmental engagement and action in MENA region.* K4D Helpdesk Report No. 1005, Institute of Development Studies (DOI: 10.19088/K4D.2021.086),

- https://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/20.500.12413/16719/1005\_Role\_of\_faith\_and\_belief\_in\_environmental\_engagement.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y.
- Alexander Gillespie, "Chapter V: Religion," in International Law, Policy, and Ethics (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014, https://doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780198713456.003.0005.
- James Bhagwan et al., *Faith Voices for Ecocide Law*, End Ecocide Sweden, 2022, https://www.faithforecocidelaw.earth/faith-voices-for-ecocide-law/.

#### Questions

- Based on the readings in this course so far, do domestic and international efforts to address environmental issues diverge? If so, how?
- In what ways do domestic and international efforts converge?
- What unique challenges are there to mobilizing religion and religious actors to address environmental concerns at the international level? Unique possibilities?

# Further Readings

- International Union for Conservation of Nature, CEESP Religion, Spirituality,
  Conservation and Climate Justice Specialist Group, <a href="https://www.iucn.org/our-union/commissions/group/iucn-ceesp-religion-spirituality-conservation-and-climate-justice">https://www.iucn.org/our-union/commissions/group/iucn-ceesp-religion-spirituality-conservation-and-climate-justice</a>
- Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative, "UN Environment Assembly, Nairobi, Kenya 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Report 2," <a href="https://eco.brahmakumaris.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UNEA4">https://eco.brahmakumaris.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/UNEA4</a> report 2.pdf.
- United Nations Environment Programme, "Faith for Earth: Shifting the Needle on Environmental Action," March 2, 2020, <a href="https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/faith-earth-shifting-needle-environmental-action">https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/faith-earth-shifting-needle-environmental-action</a>.
- Iyad Abumoghli, "UN Environment Vision on Engagement with Faith-Based Organizations," United Nations Environment Programme, 2018,
   <a href="https://abrahamicprograms.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1468/2019/05/2019-Workshop-Resources-2018-UNE-Brief-on-Engaging-with-Faith-based-organizations.pdf">https://abrahamicprograms.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1468/2019/05/2019-Workshop-Resources-2018-UNE-Brief-on-Engaging-with-Faith-based-organizations.pdf</a>

#### PART IV: BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER

# 11. Class Selected Topic

Early in the course, students will be presented with several topics for possible exploration during this class session. Selection will be made through democratic processes and readings will be announced shortly thereafter.

#### 12. Roundtable Discussion

During this class period we will be joined via Zoom by individuals working in sectors relevant to the focus of this course. Early in the semester, the class will brainstorm together about the perspectives the class would like to invite to be part of this discussion (subject to final approval by the instructor). This will be an opportunity for us to ask questions informed by our discussions thus far in the semester. Please formulate and post on Canvas three questions related to our course that you would like to ask these individuals during their visit. Posts should be made 48 hours in advance of the start of this week's class.

#### 13. Group Presentations

Each group of 2-3 students will have the opportunity to share with the class their final project.

# 14. Group Presentations and Wrap Up

As needed, the remaining groups of 2-3 students will have the opportunity to share with the class their final project. We will use the remainder of the session to discuss key themes from the course and areas for further exploration.

#### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

A short (evolving) list of additional resources that engage with themes relating to religion, law, and the environment.

- Erin DeGregorio, "Institute on Religion, Law & Lawyer's Work Invites Experts to Discuss Environmental Justice Strategies," Fordham Law School, April 22, 2022 <a href="https://news.law.fordham.edu/blog/2022/04/22/institute-on-religion-law-lawyers-work-invites-experts-to-discuss-environmental-justice-strategies/">https://news.law.fordham.edu/blog/2022/04/22/institute-on-religion-law-lawyers-work-invites-experts-to-discuss-environmental-justice-strategies/</a>
- Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard Divinity School, Religions of the World and Ecology Series, published by Harvard University Press, <a href="https://www.hup.harvard.edu/collection.php?cpk=1057">https://www.hup.harvard.edu/collection.php?cpk=1057</a>
- Roger S. Gottlieb, ed., *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, and the Environment* (New York: Routledge, 2004), 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.
- Willis Jenkins and Christopher Key Chapple, "Religion and the Environment," Annual Review of Environment and Resources, Vol. 36:441-463 (Nov. 2011), <a href="https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-environ-042610-103728">https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-environ-042610-103728</a>

- Jens Kohrsen, Julia Blanc, and Fabian Huber, *Religious Environmental Activism: Emerging Conflicts and Tensions in Earth Stewardship*, Routledge (2023), <a href="https://www.routledge.com/Religious-Environmental-Activism-Emerging-Conflicts-and-Tensions-in-Earth/Khrsen-Blanc-Huber/p/book/9780367862534?">https://www.routledge.com/Religious-Environmental-Activism-Emerging-Conflicts-and-Tensions-in-Earth/Khrsen-Blanc-Huber/p/book/9780367862534?</a>
- Oxford Academic Journals, "Religion and the Environment," https://academic.oup.com/journals/pages/religion and environment
- Jennifer Price, Flight Maps: Adventures with Nature in Modern America. New York: Basic Books, 2000.
- Vegard Skirbekk et al., "How Religion Influences Our Relationship with the Environment," Columbia University Climate School, Oct. 15, 2020, <a href="https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2020/10/15/religion-influences-relationship-environment/">https://news.climate.columbia.edu/2020/10/15/religion-influences-relationship-environment/</a>.
- Ted Steinberg, *Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History*, New York: Oxford University Press (2002).
- Francois Venter, "Environmental Stewardship: Confluence of Law and Religion?," PER / PEL 2022(25), <a href="https://perjournal.co.za/article/view/13879">https://perjournal.co.za/article/view/13879</a>.
- Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology, <a href="https://fore.yale.edu/About-Us/What-We-Do/Mission-and-Vision">https://fore.yale.edu/About-Us/What-We-Do/Mission-and-Vision</a>.