

**21st Century Eco-Humanism & Eco-
Naturalism
TCEL -4010**

Select short readings to be taken from the following:

Note: every effort will be made to provide readings on Populi as pdfs and/or links to free online resources. Students will be encouraged to use the DLT2 when possible.

Humanism/Eco-Humanism:

Epstein, Greg. *Good without God*. William Morrow, 2010. ISBN: 978-0061670121
DTL2

Gibbons, Kendyl L. R. and William R. Murry, Eds. *Humanist Voices in Unitarian Universalism*. Skinner House, 2016. ISBN: ISBN: 9781558967830



Hutchinson, Sikivu. *Humanists in the Hood: Unapologetically Black, Feminist, and Heretical (Humanism in Practice)*. Pitchstone, 2021. ISBN: 978-1634311984

Law, Steven. *Humanism: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford University Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0199553648.

Pinn, Anthony B. "Humanism: Essays on Race, Religion and Popular Culture." Bloomsbury, 2015. ISBN: 978-1472581426

Pinn, Anthony B. & Brad R. Braxton *A Master Class on Being Human: A Black Christian and a Black Secular Humanist on Religion, Race, and Justice*. Beacon, 2023. ISBN: 978-0807007884

Naturalism/Eco-Naturalism:

Beal, Timothy K. *When Time is Short: Finding our way in the Anthropocene*. Beacon, 2023. ISBN: 978-0807008256.

Emerson, R.W. and H.D. Thoreau. *Nature and Walking (Concord Library)* Beacon Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-1537056456

Hecking, Rebecca James. *The Sustainable Soul: Eco-Spiritual Reflections & Practices*. Skinner House, 2011. ISBN: 978-1558966055

LaDuke, Winona. *To Be a Water Protector: The Rise of the Wiindigoo Slayers*. Fernwood, 2020. ISBN: 978-1773632674.

McKanan, Dan. *Eco-Alchemy: Anthroposophy and the History and Future of Environmentalism*. U of CA Press, 2017. ISBN: 978-0520290068

Thomas, Leah. *The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet*. Little, Brown & Co, 2022. ISBN: 978-0316279291

Course Schedule (Tentative):

Session ONE: Introduction to Humanism.

What is Humanism? How has Humanism been defined in the past?

Materials:

- To Read:

The Humanist Manifestos (American Humanist Association)

One (1933): <https://americanhumanist.org/what-is-humanism/manifesto1/>

Two (1973): <https://americanhumanist.org/what-is-humanism/manifesto2/>

Short selections from

Law, Steven. *Humanism: A Very Short Introduction*.

- Videos

(from Humanists UK):

[“What Makes Something Right or Wrong?”](#) [“One Life, Live it Well”](#)

Session TWO: Modern Humanism (20th & 21st Century)

How has Humanism changed in the late 20th and early 21st centuries?

Materials:

- To Read:

Humanist Manifesto Three (2003):

<https://americanhumanist.org/what-is-humanism/manifesto3/>

Short selections from:

Epstein, Greg. *Good without God*. William Morrow, 2010. ISBN: 978-0061670121

Gibbons, Kendyl L. R. and William R. Murry, Eds. *Humanist Voices in Unitarian Universalism*. Skinner House, 2016. ISBN: 9781558967830

Kurtz, Paul. *What Is Secular Humanism?* Prometheus. ISBN: 978-1591024996

- Videos:

Greg Epstein, “What is Humanism” (1:37)

<https://youtu.be/7c2-r4bMm0g?si=fkMZ2daKZ4Dwa0zJ>

Session Three: Black Humanism

What is “Black Humanism”? How is it different from other forms of Humanism?

How can Black Humanism help support counter-oppressive ways of being?

Materials:

To Read - Short selections From:

- ❖ Hutchinson, Sikivu. *Humanists in the Hood: Unapologetically Black, Feminist, and Heretical (Humanism in Practice)*. Pitchstone, 2021. ISBN: 978-1634311984
- ❖ Pinn, Anthony B. & Brad R. Braxton *A Master Class on Being Human: A Black Christian and a Black Secular Humanist on Religion, Race, and Justice*. Beacon, 2023. ISBN: 978-0807007884
- ❖ Pinn, Anthony B. *Humanism: Essays on Race, Religion and Popular Culture*. Bloomsbury, 2015. ISBN: 978-1472581426

Videos: [note - for longer videos - watch what you can]

What is Black Humanism (SSA & Dr. Pinn) (54:08)

https://youtu.be/sBP1qQ1N_Rs?si=hn50a7fG7NjN17jb

UU Humanism (CLF w/Dr. Pinn) (57:02)

<https://youtu.be/FgkEsOKfkmo?si=tFDyx8Mhe3h0fOVK>

Humanism & the Challenge of Race (Dr. Pinn) (38:01)

Session Four: What is “Eco-Humanism?”

What is meant by “Eco-Humanism”? How does Eco-Humanism support counter-oppressive ways of being and acting in the world?

Materials:

To Read:

- ❖ Hutchinson, Sikivu. *Humanists in the Hood: Unapologetically Black, Feminist, and Heretical (Humanism in Practice)*. Pitchstone, 2021. ISBN: 978-1634311984
- ❖ Speckhardt, Roy. *Justice-Centered Humanism: How (and Why) to Engage in Public Policy For Good (Humanism in Practice)*, Pitchstone, 2021. ISBN: 978-1634312097

Videos [note - for longer videos - watch what you can]

Humanists in the Hood (SSA & S. Hutchinson) (22:38)

<https://www.youtube.com/live/47yAp-MVMx8?si=oZnd1gPNOTee4yL6>

Humanists in the Hood (AHA & S. Hutchinson) (46:26)

<https://youtu.be/4JQ-p2CkpEc?si=legsooPKwqueOw1m>

SSA: How is Social Justice related to Humanism (1:01:57)

<https://www.youtube.com/live/rTMVjFNGKUA?si=CHBDiQHNDIFAMqel>

Justice Centered Humanism (AHA & R. Speckhardt) (56:07)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSK939NHARw>

Session Five: Introduction to Naturalism.

What is Naturalism? How has Naturalism been defined in the past?

Materials:

To Read:

- ❖ Emerson, R.W. and H.D. Thoreau. *Nature and Walking (Concord Library)* Beacon Press, 2016. ISBN: 978-1537056456
- ❖ ReligiousNaturalism.org “Key Concepts”
<https://religiousnaturalism.org/anotherhome/> (scroll down)
- ❖ “Tenets of Naturalism” Naturalism.org
<https://www.naturalism.org/worldview-naturalism/tenets-of-naturalism>
“History of Naturalism” Naturalism.org
<https://www.naturalism.org/worldview-naturalism/history-of-naturalism>
- ❖ Overview of Loyal Rue’s “Nature is Enough” from TheMortalAtheist.com, 2023.
<https://www.themortalatheist.com/blog/nature-is-enough-loyal-rue>
And here: <https://religiousnaturalism.org/authors/loyal-rue/>

Recommended (not required):

- ❖ Rue, Loyal. *Nature is Enough: Religious Naturalism and the Meaning of Life*. SUNY Press, 2012, ISBN: 978-1438438009.

Video(s):

“What is Nature? Ralph Waldo Emerson’s ‘Nature’” (13:00)

https://youtu.be/kTIIUwidhiU?si=JD8r21-sW_D0lGeu

“I Went to the Woods/Thoreau” (1:05)

<https://youtu.be/qH6O4loC7sQ?si=w09oZBD0s4tg9GTb>

“Nature/Thoreau” (1:22)

<https://youtu.be/mNqbafnri34?si=NqzN7aPmmyTtaryc>

Session Six: Part One: Modern Naturalism/Eco-Naturalism (20th & 21st Century)

How can we understand Naturalism in the 20th and 21st Century? What is meant by “Eco-Naturalism”? How does Eco-Naturalism engage with Eco-Humanism? How does Eco-Naturalism support counter-oppressive ways of being and acting in the world?

Materials:

To Read:

Recommended but not required:

- ❖ Beal, Timothy K. *When Time is Short: Finding our way in the Anthropocene*. Beacon, 2023. ISBN: 978-0807008256.
- ❖ Goodenough, Ursula. *The Sacred Depths of Nature*.
- ❖ McKanan, Dan. *Eco-Alchemy: Anthroposophy and the History and Future of Environmentalism*. U of CA Press, 2017. ISBN: 978-0520290068

Videos:

- ❖ Ursula Goodenough & Carol Wayne White on Religious Naturalism from Eco Justice for All. <https://youtu.be/UUoJyPh8Gpc?si=EAngmn9foBjzwdnu>
- ❖ Ursula Goodenough on Religious Naturalism from Planet: Critical (1:02:49) https://youtu.be/76cuzEsaF_U?si=qXctH04MwK2hrsLp

Session Seven: Part Two: Modern Naturalism/Eco-Naturalism (20th & 21st Century)

Discussion continues this session on the following: How does Eco-Naturalism support counter-oppressive ways of being and acting in the world? How can Eco-Naturalism support intersectional, multi-cultural activism?

Materials:

To Read - Short Selections from:

- ❖ Mishra-Marzetti, Mannish & Jennifer Nordstrom. *Justice on Earth: People of Faith Working at the Intersections of Race, Class, and the Environment*. Skinner House, 2018. ISBN: 978-1558968134
The Introduction is available on [Google Books](#)
- ❖ Also check out the UUA.org materials on Justice on Earth here: <https://www.uua.org/lifespan/curricula/read/justice-on-earth>

Videos

- ❖ “Justice on Earth” on CLF #theVUU (51:36)



<https://youtu.be/DP5r1FvW7M0?si=L1z3T8V66o8ewdLs>

Session Eight: Part One: BIPOC Voices in Eco-Naturalism

How do Indigenous and Black voices define Eco-Naturalism? How can listening to these voices help support an Eco-Humanism that de-centers whiteness and supports counter-oppressive ways of being?

Materials:

To Read: short selections from texts listed as “recommended.” (will be posted to Populi)

Recommended (not required):

- ❖ LaDuke, Winona. *To Be a Water Protector: The Rise of the Wiindigoo Slayers*.
- ❖ Mishra-Marzetti, Mannish & Jennifer Nordstrom. *Justice on Earth*
- ❖ Sharkey, Erin *A Darker Wilderness: Black Nature Writing*
- ❖ Thomas, Leah. *The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet*.

Videos

- ❖ Robin Kimmerer & Ursula Goodenough on the Rights of Nature (10:39)
<https://youtu.be/VO2LTNRonEA?si=KsNFVtQ8SrNtTvV7>
- ❖ Winona LaDuke - Water Protectors (8:13)
<https://youtu.be/uOyBLJhIXXQ?si=Oz1ypX8WNUwdIKf5>
- ❖ “A Darker Wilderness: Black Nature Writing” (56:42)
https://youtu.be/YYJhIVHUzuo?si=-lba66Ycg_yqFhRL

Session Nine: Part Two: BIPOC Voices in Eco-Naturalism

Discussion continues this session on the following: How do Indigenous and Black voices define Eco-Naturalism? How can listening to these voices help support an Eco-Humanism that de-centers whiteness and supports counter-oppressive ways of being?

For this week watch:

- ❖ Winona LaDuke: Water & Food Justice, Keynote @ Smithsonian NMAI (13:28)
<https://youtu.be/IVbi-W0Z7T8?si=3Fw28owPOoyvL4HE>
- ❖ “Under the Redwoods: Black Nature Writing” (57:30)
<https://youtu.be/KudDwryowTw?si=UeFtiZiJNMYGZ2aV>



Session Ten: Part Three: BIPOC Voices in Eco-Naturalism

Prior to this session, please watch a selection of videos featuring Indigenous & BiPOC Environmental Activists. We will discuss these videos in class.

Videos:

- ❖ “The Use of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge in Climate Change Strategies”
<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/use-indigenous-traditional-knowledge-climate-change-strategies> (1:12:58)
- ❖ “Seeds of Our Ancestors” Winona LaDuke (16:36)
<https://youtu.be/pHNlel72eQc?si=d7dSfDxDvse84Cr4>
- ❖ Vandana Shiva & Farmers (43:36)
<https://youtu.be/S6W4VGXRd7k?si=t7qtuLJEFyvSaXAM>

Session Eleven: Eco-Humanism is not “Species” Specific

Humanism is sometimes confused as being “speciesist” - focused only on human beings. This session will focus on questions as to how Eco-Humanism supports and embraces all living beings.

Materials:

To Read: Short Selections From:

- ❖ Bekoff, Marc. *The Animals’ Agenda: Freedom, Compassion & Coexistence in the Human Age*. Beacon, 2018. ISBN: 978-0807027608
- ❖ Hogan, Linda. *The Radiant Lives of Animals*. Beacon Press, 2020. ISBN: 978-0807047927

Videos: (TBD)

Session Twelve: Eco-Humanism, Eco-Naturalism, and 21st Century Eco-Activism

This session will focus on discussion of definitions, asking students to articulate their new understandings of Humanism, Eco-Humanism, Naturalism, and Eco-Naturalism within the contexts of the course. Students will be asked to discuss how they might effectively bring Eco-Humanist and Eco-Naturalist perspectives into their Ministry(-ies) including Movement Chaplaincy, Community Ministry, UU Parish Ministry, and more.

Sessions Thirteen/Fourteen:

These sessions will be reserved for student presentations and discussion of final projects.