HONORS 391: Advanced Honors Seminar – Fall 2017

Voices of Conservation and Sustainability

Department of Environmental Conservation

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HONORS 391A (SPIRE:_____), Section 30; 1 credit; Course website on Moodle
Wednesday, 4:00-4:50 pm [preferred time], CHC Residential Complex – Elm Room ___

In principle, everyone likes farms and forests (and "the environment") — at least they say they do. In practice, as evidenced by continuing loss or degradation of forest and farm land and acceleration of climate change, there is plenty of room for improvement at the local, regional, national, and global scale. In fact, as we strain the ecological limits of this fragile Earth, our island home (BCP 1979:370), and the cumulative impact of ~330,000,000 Americans comes more clearly into view, it would be more accurate to say there is a conservation and sustainability imperative. So, how can we live more sustainably? Who can we look to for guidance and encouragement? The writers, thinkers, practitioners, and leaders listed below will help us to clarify our values, refine our attitudes, develop our communication skills, and sustain conscious actions. By the end of our seminar I hope that you will be: (1) inspired by their ideas and insights, (2) more attuned to the co-evolution of nature, culture, and place (sensu *Orion*), *and* (3) highly motivated to keep learning and leading by example.

Week	Session	Date	Presentation/DiscussionTopic *…details on next page*	
1	1	tbd	Introductions/expectations/learning objectives/discussion	
2	2		My thoughts, perspective, and overview comments	
3	3		John Burroughs, President Theodore Roosevelt	
4	4		*"Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time"*	
5	5		Aldo Leopold, Sigurd Olson	
6	6		Helen Hoover, Calvin Rutstrum	
7	7		*"Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai"*	
8	8		Wendell Berry	
9	9		UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and Pope Francis	
10	10		Robin Kimmerer, Margaret Cromarty, Joseph Marshall III	
11	-		*No seminar …Fri Schedule at UMass*	*Please "read ahead" and begin your final essay.*
12	-		*No seminar …Thanksgiving Recess*	
13	11		David Owen, David Korten, Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee	
14	12		Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone, Duane Elgin	
15	13		John Burroughs, Chief Oren Lyons …then sharing ideas from our essays	
Seminar Grade = Discussion Leader[1] (20%) + Author Biography[2] (20%) + Final Essay[3] (40%) + Peer Review[4] (20%)				

[1] Each participant will, with help from Prof. Barten, serve as the discussion leader for one or two readings. We will use an informal "round table" discussion format with everyone taking a turn to share their observations and thoughts from prepared notes and highlighted sections of the readings. We'll add reactions, questions, and informal group discussion along the way. We will use name cards to get to know each other and facilitate discussion.

[2] Each participant will prepare a one-page biography (with links to other resources) for one of the authors we study.

[3] A 2-3 page essay that describes some of the key things you learned and how they have influenced your perspective and behavior. Your essay should be carefully written and edited; please work on successive drafts beginning in mid-November.

[4] Randomly assigned peer review and editing (using Word Track Changes) of the final draft of a classmate's essay.

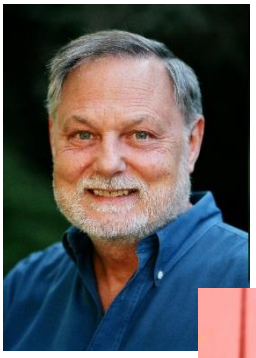
— Fall 2017 Reading, Film, and Discussion Schedule —

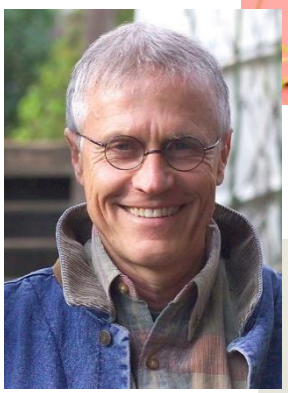
Date	#	Author/Conservationist	Reading & Notes
tbd	**2**	Paul Barten	"Searching for the Old Trail to a New Place" (submitted to *Orion* and *The Leopold Outlook*)
	3	John Burroughs President Theodore Roosevelt	"About John Burroughs" and "Introduction" by Prof. Jeff Walker …then "Phases of Farm Life" by Burroughs; Roosevelt: Speech to the Second American Forest Congress, January 1905
	4	*"Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time"* (film/seminar will end at 5:00 pm)	"Thinking Like A Mountain" …please read this essay ***before*** we watch the film
	5	Brief discussion of "Green Fire" then more Aldo Leopold …and Sigurd Olson	Leopold: "Good Oak" and "Odyssey" Olson: "The Forest Pool"
	6	Helen Hoover Calvin Rutstrum	Hoover: excerpts from "*The Years of the Forest*" Rutstrum: "Escape Complex" and "The Wilderness Indian"
	7	*"Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai"* (film/seminar will end at 5:00 pm)	Watch this ***after*** the film: http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2004/maathai-lecture.html
	8	Brief discussion of "*Taking Root*" …then Wendell Berry	"Farming and the Global Economy" "Elmer Lapp's Place" "Narrative for the Future…"
	9	UN Secretary General Ban Ki moon Pope Francis	UN Sec. Ban Ki moon: selected speeches Pope Francis: Summary of *"On Care For Our Common Home"*
	10	Robin Wall Kimmerer and Margaret Sam Cromarty Joseph Marshall III	Kimmerer: "Learning the Grammar of Animacy" Cromarty: selected poems Marshall: "Introduction: The Hunger"
	11	Excerpts from: David Owen David Korten Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee	Owen: *The Conundrum* http://www.davidowen.net/david_owen/the-conundrum.html Korten: *The Great Turning* Vaughan-Lee: *Spiritual Ecology*
	12	Excerpts from: Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone Duane Elgin	Macy and Johnstone: *Active Hope* Elgin: *Voluntary Simplicity*
	13	John Burroughs Chief Oren Lyons …and each of us	Burroughs: "The Sound of Nature" Lyons: "Listening to Natural Law" **Us:** Key thoughts and short excerpts from our essays

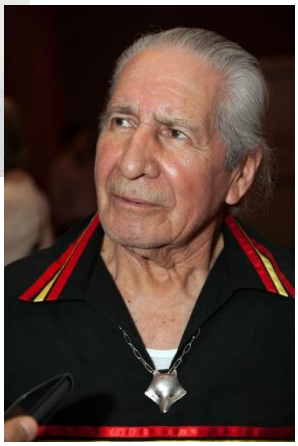
John Burroughs — Gifford Pinchot — Theodore Roosevelt

Sigurd and Elizabeth Olson — Aldo Leopold — Helen and Adrian Hoover

Calvin Rutstrum — Wangari Maathai
David Owen — Tanya and Wendell Berry — Robin Wall Kimmerer
William and Margaret Cromarty — Joseph Marshall III
UN Secretary-General Ban Ki moon — Pope Francis







Duane Elgin — David Korten
Joanna Macy
Paul Hawken — Chris Johnstone
Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee
Chief Oren Lyons

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Films

Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time. http://www.greenfiremovie.com/

Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai. http://takingrootfilm.com/

Wangari Muta Maathai (courtesy of the Green Belt Movement)