RELIGION 150: THE RETURN TO NATURE IN AMERICAN RELIGION

Colloquium
Mr. Santmire

BOOKS: It is suggested that you buy the following books, if possible. These books, however, and all others we will be using, are on reserve in the library.

Thoreau, Walden and Other Writings
Melville, Moby Dick
Muir, Mountains of California
Hemingway, The Old Man and the Sea
Eliade, The Sacred and the Profane
Mungo, Total Loss Farm

READING NOTE: Not counting our first meeting, the reading in this course averages about 200 pages a week(some of this will be relatively easy going, novels, etc.). THE AMOUNT OF READING REQUIRED FOR ANY GIVEN WEEK, HOWEVER, IS SOMETIMES DISPROPORTIONATE. YOU ARE URGED TO PLAN YOUR WORK FOR THE YEAR(exams, papers, etc. in this and other courses) WITH THIS IN MIND. The syllabus lists total pages of required reading for each week.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Regular attendance, reading, and discussion participation. This is a colloquium, not a lecture-course, and its success, in large measure, will depend on the regular, individual effort by each participant.

2. Spokesperson(discussion leader) in class, semi-regularly. With a little carrot: overall good presentations will add a plus to your final grade.

3. Take-home "hour exam, due Nov. 26 or before.

4. Final paper, about 15 to 20 pages, focusing on Thoreau. Due December 20.

I. THE THEME IN PROSPECT

Sept. 10 THE SCOPE OF THE DISCUSSION. REFLECTIONS ON THE CONTEMPORARY ECOLOGICAL CRISIS AS A POINT OF DEPARTURE.

Sept. 17 AN OVERVIEW OF THE AMERICAN PROBLEMATIC
(82pp.)

Sidney E. Mead, "When 'Wisemen Hoped[1]': An Examination of Mind and Spirit of the National Period," in THE LIVELY EXPERIMENT: THE SHAPING OF CHRISIANITY IN AMERICA, pp. 90-102.

R.W.B. Lewis, THE AMERICAN ADAM, pp. 1-27.

H. Paul Santmire, BROTHER EARTH, pp. 13-35.

Leo Marx, "Pastoral Ideals and 'ity Troubles," in WESTERN MAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS, ed. Ian Barbour, pp. 93-115.