



Joe

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[Home](#) ► [My courses](#) ► [Spring 15](#) ► [HST 203 Sp15 \(Escobar Meta\)](#) ► [May 24 - May 30](#) ► [Forum 4](#) ► [Environmentalism as Religion](#)


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## Forum 4

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**Environmentalism as Religion**

by Joe Escobar - Friday, May 22, 2015, 10:59 AM

This forum thread is for Environmentalism as Religion posts and replies.

After studying the required materials, address the various questions. To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Environmentalism as Religion

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**Being Environmentally Friendly Should Be Encouraged, Not Forced**

by Cody Souza - Monday, May 25, 2015, 11:11 PM

In regards to the notion of having a "Green Police" or religion based on Environmentalism, I think people should be educated on what it is and encouraged to do their best to preserve nature. However, people are going to do what they want regardless. Education and encouragement on being Environmentally friendly will do more good than trying to force someone to be earth conscious, because trying to force people into something doesn't always work out perfectly, as history can tell us.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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**Environmentalism NOT a religion**

by Tyler Dennis - Monday, May 25, 2015, 11:53 PM

After watching the video of Michael Crichton explain how he sees environmentalism as a religion I thought about the reasoning and principles behind environmentalism and the principles on what makes a religion a religion. A religion is the set of beliefs, cultural values, and world views that relate to humanity to a order of existence, and aim to explain life's meaning, while environmentalism is not really even remotely close to those principles. Environmentalism is the ideology and social movement regarding concerns for environmental protection and improvement of the health of the environment, which i see as a nothing more, and nothing deeper to what the definition is really saying. Both environmentalism and religion revolve around the conscience, but they are different in that religion aims it's wrong or right doing to the higher existence (God), and environmentalism connects aims it's wrong or right doing (littering, etc) with a cleaner more sustained Earth. There is no order of existence.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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**Environmentalism**



by [Tristan Ivie](#) - Monday, May 25, 2015, 11:55 PM

Is environmentalism a religion or just the consequence of the left end of the political spectrum's beliefs and ideas? Really, One could make the argument that a lot of different ideas and beliefs are religion if we are going off the article's arguments. The arguments the article makes are the the environmentalist way of thinking is unjustified, non factual, and irrational. Well, many people through out history have believed in and spread non factual, irrational beliefs. I am not a environmentalist and often disagree with them but let's not call the environmental movement a religion until we have stories of how green people made the earth.

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

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### Re: Environmentalism

by [Adam Graves](#) - Friday, May 29, 2015, 2:54 PM

Well stated, although I don't find myself to be an environmentalist. I do recycle, eat local, and do try to keep my energy consumption low. I've just recently decided to not water my lawn this summer with all the alarming news about water levels. Lane county and six other counties are in drought status and I think that people sometimes take water for granted. I definitely don't think of it as a religion but do find a lot of the science behind society's affects on our planet interesting and at times a bit scary. As stated in the last chapter we read chapter 29, how there were some steps taken to reduce air pollution, and government was cracking down on the use of pesticides that were harmful to people. I do think that the government and society is being more aware and responsible about how we treat the earth.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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### Environmentalism as a way of life

by [Joshua Melick](#) - Tuesday, May 26, 2015, 3:28 PM

I dont think that the issues of pollution or creating waste will ever be truly resolved. The problem is the way our nation is built on capitalism and how we reward individuals with large sums of money to exploit the earth to reach materialistic goals. The only possible solution to reduce these problems is through education. If the average person knew of alternatives to a greener lifestyle im sure they would feel more inclined to do so. This would also have people supporting greener practices with their money, reducing the funding for corporations like BP or Monsanto and could ultimately put them out of business forcing people to use more organic foods and alternative forms of energy.

Rubin's article was interesting because I have never seen the ties between environmentalism and religion before. I honestly don't like seeing environmentalism as a form of religion because i believe it is much more than that. I see religion as a voluntary belief system that is passed on just like stories with the native americans and I see our earth as fact. Like it is a fact that if something is not done now about the way we currently treat our earth we will not be able to sustain an ecosystem that will be able to support all the world's population ie. food and water.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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### Re: Environmentalism as a way of life

by [Jaalen Johnson](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 10:25 PM

I think you make a couple very strong points but their are also a couple things I slightly disagree with.

First off your strong points, the problem with pollution is never going to be resolved. Its a never ending puzzle in my opinion that is constantly changing and requires a lot of trial and error on our part.

Also if we were to educate people on the alternatives on preserving the environment it could certainly help but I think we would still run into the problem of actually implementing that knowledge. Just like laws, we can make laws but can we actually enforce them? We can teach everyone how to recycle, in my opinion, most people already know how but that doesn't mean we can enforce recycling. Some people are just lazy and don't take the time to sort their trash. Trash is Trash to some.

I also believe slowly but surely we are making progress and not rewarding to exploit the Earth. Although it is certainly still a problem, we are certainly making progress. It is frowned upon for the most part.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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### "In Mother Nature we trust"

by [Adam Graves](#) - Friday, May 29, 2015, 2:19 PM

This is a concept that I didn't think about before. Environmentalism as a religion? I guess I can see the similarities that are brought up by the Michael Crichton and the articles in the forum material. I guess I looked at the whole green movement as just doing the right thing, and helping preserve or start to take better care of our environment then we have previously done in the past.

Does this make Theodore Roosevelt as a saint for putting large amounts of land under protection with legislations and even Oregon's own crater lake? I'm grateful that TR put all these parks and monuments aside so that they wouldn't be developed. I definitely tend to think of myself as a little bit of an environmentalist in the since I do try to consume less, buy locally; mainly because it tastes better, and be aware of my energy use and mainly because I'm a tight with my money.

But here is something that I found silly about our own campus. You can't buy water in a bottle, and I for the most part I never buy water only cause I usually always have a Hydroflask that I carry with me everywhere with water in it. I left to school one morning to class and left it at home, I went to the book store to buy a water, and couldn't find a single bottle of just water. They had vitamin water and just about any other sugary drink imaginable to purchase. I asked the person at the register why they didn't sell water, and her response was to cut down on plastic bottles. Which I found hilarious as just about every other drink was in a plastic bottle. For a school that is losing money, you would think they would sell water. I had full intentions to refill the water bottle after I drank it as well as recycle it, but didn't want to purchase another water container as I already have many at home.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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### Slowly but surely?

by [Jaalen Johnson](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 9:47 PM

I think these articles did a very good job at justifying why environmentalism is becoming a religion. The first article, "While people have worshipped many things, we may be the first to build shrines to garbage" actually gave us 6 specific reasons how it is becoming a religion.

When you actually think about all the stuff that is put into environmentalism it practically gives you commandments just like other religions do.

1. Recycle
2. Certain bulbs
3. Compost
4. Carpool

And the list can continue.

But for the most part I do agree with the youtube video with the fact that it shouldn't be a religion. The reasons I agreed with are the fact that the environment does change which requires us to change our tactics of preserving it. Religions aren't supposed to change, you are supposed to believe in biblical totality.

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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### Environmentalism Definitely Not A Religion



by [Darren Rolewicz](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 9:54 PM

If we were going to use Michael Chriton's or Paul Rubin's elementary definitions of religion, you could make the argument that environmentalism is just that, a religion. But since we like to use literal definitions in this class, it is not a religion. Chriton enjoys linking certain environmentalist ideologies to Judeo-Christian ones like the garden of eden and original sin. These are loose associations at best and in my mind an attempt to twist the ideas of environmentalism into sounding like a religion. Rubin emphasizes that environmentalism's ability to provide an identity is an indicator of it's religious aspect. But if that were true, then any group that is passionate about an issue could be seen as a religion. And while I'm sure certain environmentalists are indeed very spiritual and religious about their beliefs, environmentalism still doesn't live up to the definition of a religion. A religion is a collection of beliefs, cultural systems, and world views that relate humanity to an order of existence. Nowhere does environmentalism try to relate humanity to an order of existence. While it does make a connection of humanity's detriment to the natural world, it does not try to explain our existence. Environmentalism's only references to human existence is how that existence has affected the environment, not how or why that existence occurred.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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### Green, the new red?

by [Samuel Black](#) - Saturday, May 30, 2015, 10:41 PM

Is environmentalism a religion? While the authors of the study articles believe so, I find myself to be more in league with the cartoonists. Tyler Dennis said in his forum post that "Environmentalism is the ideology and social movement..." I love this line because that really is what environmentalism seems to be. While I of course can not bring up the 'Hitler argument' as that would raise red flags, can I talk about the Russian revolution? Communism, an ideology, started as a result of the Russian Revolution of 1917, which was a social movement. While yes, the environmentalists are not leading a physical revolution, neither was Hitler. We saw this in the pictures of him kissing babies, getting photos take with fans and general politician stuff (yes I know i brought up Hitler, but it is actually a decent example for once). This brings us to the question "...can these types of issues EVER be resolved, either through education, legislation, or prosecution?" I do not think so. The problem with ideologies is their lack of deliverance, communism could not ever be what the word actually means it to be. Just as environmentalism cannot ever be what it should, because there are a lot of 'bad people' and it is nearly impossible to pass any legislation without it getting abused, either by the public or the government. Remember the Religious Freedom Restoration Act? It was designed to protect the rights of religious groups who were obeying the law yet still being persecuted and bullied, but what happens next? The First Church of Cannabis happens. This allowed people to use a law intended to protect the rights of Americans, and abuse it so they could use a controlled substance. The same will happen if the government tries to pass any legislation that sides with environmentalism, next we will see the 'church of non-recyclables' and other such nonsense.

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