

HST 203: History of the United States Sp17 (Escobar Meta 41054 41053)

Home ► My courses ► HST 203 Sp17 (Escobar Meta 41054 41053) ► Week 9 ► Forum 4 ► Environmentalism as Religion

 Search forums

Forum 4

Environmentalism as Religion

[• Subscribe](#)

◀ Rights, Rights, and More Rights

Display replies in nested form ▼

Move this discussion to ... ▼

Move

Pin



Environmentalism as Religion

by Joe Escobar - Saturday, May 27, 2017, 12:18 AM

This thread is for discussions on the Environmentalism as Religion topic.

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, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: Environmentalism as Religion

Sum of ratings: -

[Permalink](#) | [Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Solutions

by Amber Leonard - Monday, May 29, 2017, 11:55 AM

I think solutions can be enacted peacefully. We could just put more recycling bins next to garbage cans everywhere to encourage recycling. If we make recycling as convenient as throwing things away in garbage cans we could recycle more. I don't think we will get to the point where life becomes like the commercial. I think that instead of punishing people for buying the wrong kind of light bulb, stores will only sell LED light bulbs so you don't have the choice to buy the bad light bulbs.

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



Re: Solutions

by Eric Walston - Friday, June 2, 2017, 10:03 PM

The only problem is, there are only a few things that are important to recycle. Aluminium being one of them. When both paper, and plastic is recycled, the process is actually quite bad for the environment. The answer really does lie in reducing, and reusing. Making more plastics that are easier to biodegrade, and looking closer at what you purchase. There are a multitude of cities that will charge you, if you do not recycle. This causes a problem for those who understand what is at stake. The recycling companies are actually making money from the whole process.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Solutions

by Jessica Fialho - Saturday, June 3, 2017, 1:36 PM

I think we are on the right track for some peaceful solutions to recycling and helping the environment. Putting recycle bins next to garbage cans to encourage recycling like we have been doing is fairly peaceful. My only concern is when we do get hostile situations from people because someone still throws something away. I hope we can still educate awareness about helping our planet, but at the same time avoid anything like the commercial and punishing over the top. I am sure recycling will continue to find ways to evolve and help our Environment.

I do agree that instead of punishing the people for buying the wrong kind of light bulb, stores should start selling the light bulbs that we'd be allowed to use. I wonder if some people are considering this falling under the plastic bag ban happened? To me, it's on the same topic. When the bags were banned that was us being pushed into using a different style that is said to be better for the Environment. I only wonder how much of this is too much. Where I am a firm believer in helping Earth and doing what we can to keep her as clean as possible I worry about us finding that balance though. I do not have much hope that conflict will resolve with this topic but I hope we can continue to work our way toward some balance that allows Earth to be healthier with still remembering humans live here too.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Solutions

by Branden Long - Saturday, June 3, 2017, 10:35 PM

I don't believe many problems can be solved peacefully. The example you gave makes sense if you have money and want to be green, but look at it from a manufactures point of view which is the cheaper you can make the more the profit will be in the end. In all reality many people need an incentive to do things that may require extra effort than what they're used to. Even if that little bit of effort is just to get a recycling bin and use it. Maybe if there

was some kind of incentive for manufactures to only produce environmentally friendly products then that is all they would produce, and in turn that is all consumers will be able to buy.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Beliefs Always Impact Interpretation

by Jessica Fialho - Monday, May 29, 2017, 3:55 PM

I am rather sure the strength of my own religious belief, or lack of, do impact my interpretation of the materials presented. In fact I believe that our beliefs constantly shape our interpretation of material. It would be impossible for them not to and through my experiences I believe it actually makes it harder for me to fully support rather Environmentalism is or is not a religion. In fact, I actually had not thought about this in depth about where I stand because this is the first time it has been presented to me from this view point.

Paul H. Rubin's article makes some excellent points about how Environmentalism compares to religion. He points out that Earth day could be considered the holy day and that there are food taboos like most religions. He only continues with quite a few examples of how Environmentalism could be considered a religion and honestly some of these points are excellent. This is where my beliefs affected my interpretation of the material because I believe in looking at multiple materials presented and this does take time so developing a one sided opinion. So with Environmentalism if rather or not I view it as a religion it will take more time.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Target Product Production by Companies

by Jaclyn Bahn - Monday, May 29, 2017, 11:32 PM

I believe that the laws we set in place to sustain our environment need to focus less on citizens usage of styrofoam cups, plastic bags, light bulbs, ect. (Audi Commercial) and more on a company's distribution of the products and finding a way to create and offer more ecofriendly alternatives.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Target Product Production by Companies

by Brandon Gericke - Friday, June 2, 2017, 2:41 PM

I remember hearing that the recycling program has helped set up by corporations to appease the environmentalists, effectively allowing them to produce the same amount of product. Basically distracting them from the real problem and giving them a false solution.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Rubin and his view of Religion and Environmentalism

by Julia Tomlinson - Monday, May 29, 2017, 11:51 PM

Throughout my entire life I have flirted with the Catholic religion, but never really had an interest in forming more of a committed relationship. This flirtationship was mostly put on my grandmother and not my own interest in practicing the religion, which is most likely why I'm not an active participant in practicing Catholicism. Overall, I would say that I have enough religious exposure to have formed the opinion that I have no interest in being a religious person. That being said, I believe that Professor Paul H. Rubin makes some very strong points about the relation to religion and environmentalism. From the simple argument of point out that religion has holy days and environmentalism has Earth Day, to the more complex point, stating that religion and environmentalism have a similar belief system, I believe that Rubin's comparisons are pretty accurate. It is very possible that because I am a person that does not actively practice or believe in a specific religion, that I was more accepting of Rubin's comparisons because they were not potentially belittling to something I strongly believe in.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Environmentalism as Religion

by Jordan Selker - Tuesday, May 30, 2017, 12:38 PM

In order to solve our society's "conflict" with the earth, a broad, multi-faceted approach is required. Education is essential to understanding the problem, and is the foundation of change. Legislation is necessary for structuring our infrastructure in a way that limits wasteful and destructive practices. Finally, prosecution is necessary to enforce said legislation. We have seen this progress since world war two in the regulation of atomic testing, the foundation of the EPA, and various other environmental policies. At at communal level we saw the foundation of Earth day in 1970, now recognized by 192 countries worldwide. We have peaceful, voluntary change coexisting with regulations.

This article makes some good commonalities between environmentalism and religion, and I do believe them to be very similar, however it also has some very misconstrued perspectives on certain issues. There is a "holy day" and food taboos. Beyond the presented organic and local food movement, plant-based diets are becoming a pillar of an environmentally friendly diet. It is also proselytizing, members believe in a certain set of morals and practices, that they promote a better life for themselves but most importantly those around them, and attempt to educate and convert people to their beliefs. The author talks about "self-sacrificing rituals that are not particularly useful, such as recycling. Recycling paper to save trees, for example, makes no sense since the effect will be to reduce the number of trees planted in the long run." Unfortunately, saving trees and planting trees are being treated synonymously here, and wrongly so. Re-using materials, is incredibly productive, by nature. When you re-use a material you literally produce a new thing, usefulness is inherent. I don't believe environmentalists to do self sacrificing rituals that don't have an intended positive outcome. The next paragraph starts with "Belief systems are embraced with no logical basis. For example, environmentalists almost universally believe in the dangers of global warming but also reject the best solution to the problem, which is nuclear power. These two beliefs co-exist based on faith, not reason." This is riddled with false claims and assumptions. Firstly, that their beliefs have no logical basis, overwhelming scientific evidence is used to form our perception of the world and how we affect it, this is a purely logical connection. Then nuclear power is presented as the best solution to global warming, an opinion stated as fact by someone speaking far out of their expertise. Furthermore, it is insinuated that global warming is the only problem on the agenda of an environmentalist, and because they oppose something that may benefit a certain cause, but create countless other environmental issues, that they are acting "with no logical basis".

The paragraph on garbage shrines comes off as nonsense to me so it's difficult to assess. Trash cans and recycling bins are built with a functional purpose, and are used as such, not with the intentions of honoring anything or anyone, they are not shrines, they are containers. I'm strongly biased, as someone who uses the earth's resources on a daily basis, I'm inclined to want to protect it. I also don't subscribe to any certain religion, but instead enhance my own interpretations of spirituality through readings from various religions. This makes me more inclined to categorize something as a religion, because I view it as a broad idea.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Science and faith

by Brandon Gericke - Thursday, June 1, 2017, 11:56 AM

I dont believe that the conflict between science and faith can ever be settled. Science like to be based in fact and faith is belief despite the lack of facts. You cant argue against someone who has facts and you cant win an argument against someone who doesnt care about facts. As a country we arent allowed to make any laws in favor or against any religion, so I dont see how legislation would help. We definitely arent allowed to persecute people based on their religious beliefs or lack thereof. When it comes to environmentalism being seen as a religion, I can see the resemblance. A lot of what is pushed in the environmental agenda is not based in fact. I myself am not religious, that doesnt keep me from believing that it is important to do what we can when it comes to protecting the environment. I do see the political schemes that people play with when talking about being green. I wouldnt say that the cartoons posted either supported or opposed my opinions. They did however allow me to see more clearly some of the more ridiculous opinions of both sides.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Science and faith

by Tyler Ingram - Saturday, June 3, 2017, 1:32 AM

I may be more optimistic than you on the subject. I am person a person of faith, but I also have a strong understanding and belief in science as a second year mechanical engineering student. Science can only expand to the realm of what is repeatable and provable. Faith traditionally is belief in generally vague interpretations, and interacts with what generally cannot be repeatable or provable. In principal, these two fields never should interact. I suppose that depends how literally you take the bible or other religious texts, but I'll leave the argument there for now.

In terms of both how laws can help with religion, and how you as a non-religious person believe in the importance of protecting the environment, I may be able to shed some additional perspective. In this case of environmentalism as a religion, the concept of religion is no longer being used to represent the unprovable and unrepeatable: climate change propelled by man-made greenhouse gasses, acceleration in extinction rates, increased rates of forest fires, etc. have all been thoroughly documented, proven, and continue to be repeated.

This new "environmentalism" religion now favors a science-respecting population, and relies their faith in science. Similar to traditional religions, environmentalism can also allow people to feel like a part of something larger than themselves. People can consciously follow environmentalism wholeheartedly, or just as a belief that is only sometimes followed. A huge number of parallels exist between our new and traditional religions, all without most followers knowing that they are participating in a religion, and being fully spiritually fulfilled.

What I took away from this article is the interesting reality that government can now interact with religion, as environmentalism is not an official religion. This creates a huge array of shocking possibilities that the government normally would not have with a traditionally religion -- both because environmentalism isn't legally a religion, and because most people don't realize it fulfills its role as a religion.

SPIRITUAL WELLNESS

Find meaning in life events, demonstrate individual purpose, & live a life that reflects your values and beliefs



Sum of ratings:3 (1)

3



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Can Reduce, Cannot End.

by Tyler Ingram - Friday, June 2, 2017, 1:53 AM

In recent years, it does appear that environmentalism is substituting as a religion for many people. Although we may imagine a future where environmentalism has taken over and everybody follows the social trend (or maybe the law at that point), I doubt that these conflicts will ever truly end. As we saw in class just today, voting rights and racial tension still clearly existed in the late 1960's. Even today, you will still occasionally see someone boasting confederate flag, although the civil was 150 years ago.

In terms of improving the environmental act, I don't believe it will get better any time soon without enforced legal action. We've seen plenty of cases in class of what happens when a law is brought up but not enforced (like cell phones and driving for a modern example), and we've also seen that people generally won't give up money and power for the sole sake of being altruistic. While education and egalitarianism are bound to help, there will always be an

enormous group that will be more interested in helping themselves than the planet. Even large-scale boycotts aren't realistically able to stop all forms of pollution, although many could be shunned like the use of styrofoam cups.



Sum of ratings:2 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Can Reduce, Cannot End.

by Brandon Gericke - Friday, June 2, 2017, 2:36 PM

Another example of this is when Trump pulled the U.S out of the Paris Climate Agreement. He and others obviously didnt want to give up power and money in order to help protect the environment. I also agree that there isnt much that can be done without some sort of legislation and enforcement.

Sum of ratings:0 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



BREAKING NEWS ON CNN

by Eric Walston - Friday, June 2, 2017, 9:19 PM

Everyone is up-in-arms about Trump leaving the Paris Climate Agreement. I'm curious how many people have actually read this agreement. Do they know what the requirements are for our country, what it entails, etc? Mob mentality politics have not changed over the years. This is no different that those in the 70's, claiming the 90's would become a dry desert land.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Environment vs. Religion

by Amelia Salzman - Friday, June 2, 2017, 10:04 PM

It is ironic how relevant this topic is to the current news. I think the Rubin article brought up some interesting points about the environment. It definitely holds some similarity to religion but I think this article is inaccurate in a few fundamental ways. For example, Earth day is not the same as Christmas of Easter. It doesn't hold the same involvement of tradition. (I'm sure there are individuals who feel differently) when looking at the general public it's different. Environmentalism isn't ingrained in the culture the way religion is. But it does seem to hold strong passion more now than in the past. However the points Rubin makes about Food taboo and proselytizing religion do show strong similarities are to ignore. It is hard to say how we as a society wills come together for solutions. I would like to think that Voluntarily but is seems near impossible to get things done that way, Even with legislation The example that comes to

mind would be the painfully slow pace of the integrations of schools. I am inclined to think that action will happen when we feel threaten. Most people know the climate change is a threat but to the average American feels it's distant and often unimportant. If Americans feel like they are in real danger that is when big change will occur. My example would be the public involvement and opinion before and after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Most Americans wanted nothing to do with the war until after we were attacked. Once we felt in danger, Americans rallied and got behind the war effort.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Conflict Resolution Probability Not Likely

by Jessica Fialho - Saturday, June 3, 2017, 10:29 AM

I feel several of you hit excellent points on the question about if conflict between science and faith can ever be resolved. Well, I agree with Brandon and a few others that the conflict can not be resolved. However, I believe the conflict between the two is ever fluctuating and not consistent. If we were to graph it out, it would not be a linear line, such as always intense at war conflict between the two. At times, the two sides may come to a closer understanding of one another. I am not saying science and faith will completely agree, but I do believe History has shown us that people can come to an understanding or compromise even on the most opposite of views at times.

This is where education is incredibly important. With education it helps teach people values and the ability to see different sides and so much more. Education teaches people how to communicate and when we learn about History it helps people not repeat the same mistakes of the past. If only more people would learn from the past and listen. All the skills education teaches us could help guide to just a bit calmer conflict between science and faith. Where again, I do not believe the conflict will ever be resolved, I do believe there can be ways to help prevent past higher conflict situations.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



The Visual Effect

by Jessica Fialho - Saturday, June 3, 2017, 11:45 AM

The Visual Effect

The added images definitely shape my view a little more toward making me believe Environmentalism is to be seen like a religion. Perhaps even a political party because it's being compared to communism in one of the pictures. I mean these visual images could of been created by almost anyone because of how technology works, but this isn't just a single person going around creating images on Environmentalism. There is all sorts of images about Environmentalism and what going against means or what following it will mean.

The three images I am sharing with you are ones I have seen on social media. I want to start with "Save the Earth. Its the only planet with chocolate". First I just want to say Is chocolate really what's going to motivate people to save the planet? Okay, whatever works. This is

incredibly interesting honestly because on this one hand we have a board comparing saving the world means we get chocolate. Then for the next we have Environmentalism saying that they can't eat meat and that if you do it's like "philanthropist who doesn't happen to give to charity". Then in a meme, with the dino "If we need the earth to survive but we're destroying it are we committing suicide?' So in a few images Environmentalism seems to want us to believe that if we follow them we get chocolate. While being reminded that meat is bad. Just an interesting assortment of messages that people of Environmentalism are using. Makes me lean even more toward Environmentalism as a Religion.

I use the word interesting because that's what this information is to me. In my first post I addressed that our religious beliefs or lack of them do influence how we view the article and how we see if Environmentalism is religious or not. I still stand by this and I entirely believe that my own beliefs are what has me so curious about how everyone is reacting to this topic. In the end, I am still on the fence rather or not Environmentalism is a religion.



Howard Lyman

♦ "To be an environmentalist who happens to eat meat is like being a philanthropist who doesn't happen to give to charity"

♦ Mad Cowboy: Plain Truth from the Cattle Rancher Who Won't Eat Meat

**IF WE NEED THE EARTH TO
SURVIVE BUT WE'RE
DESTROYING IT,**

**ARE WE COMMITTING
SUICIDE?**

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: The Visual Effect

by Amelia Salzman - Saturday, June 3, 2017, 10:23 PM

Well first I have to say, you can never underestimate the power of chocolate. I think your three image bring up interesting themes of religion and environmentalism. Out of the three the one that stood out to the most was the image reading "If we need the earth to survive but were destroying it are we committing suicide?" It made me wonder if it was showing environmentalism as a religion or if it was using preexisting religious views to prove a point about the environment. Most of (if not all) the religions I know of, consider suicide a sin. It seems using suicide as a point of persuasion would be designed to catch the attention of people who are already are religious. I think utilizing religious believes would lessen the idea that environmentalism is in fact a kind of religion.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

1



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Can u really solve anything to a point where everyone will be happy?

by Jeff Johnson - Saturday, June 3, 2017, 3:32 PM

I would say that yes these issues can be addressed but u can't do it overnight and the best way to probably do it is through education and I would say it's most effective on local scales. I have no problem with using environmentalism as a religion as long as they do not force their beliefs upon others. This is why the car commercial makes me slightly nervous seeing police used on people asking for a plastic bag and the banner in one of the pictures takes that to an absolute extreme with "Save the planet kill yourself". I have absolutely believe religion should be protected as it is under the first amendment but do not believe in any way that it gives u a right to impose your beliefs on others. I appreciate quite a few things environmentalists have done like more local and organic farms but think with some programs like recycling we need to be able to examine the true benefits. My example is glass recycling why we smash good glass bottles to turn them into low grade products when we could reuse them like Mexico. People comparing communism to the environmental movement are in for a rude surprise if that ever happens as we might end up with what's happening in that commercial except for a few thing u didn't see. The people being taken away by the police are sent to reeducation camps and in the end it's a governmental official speeding by in his diesel as everyone else is stranded on the side of the road out of their gas rations.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

2



[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



Re: Environmentalism as Religion

by Branden Long - Saturday, June 3, 2017, 9:40 PM

The article states that being environmentally safe is like a religion because we do celebrate earth day. The fact that we have changed our diets, has a temple which is nature, and has a belief structure. The only thing is that people don't pray for it they have to take actions to be apart of this religion.

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

Sum of ratings:0 (1) 0



Re: Environmentalism as Religion

by Tyler Ingram - Saturday, June 3, 2017, 11:03 PM

Try to remember to change your subject from the default (=

It's interesting that you say the only thing difference between religion and environmentalism is the fact that you don't pray to be a part of environmentalism -- I argue against this claim. Environmentalists will spend their entire lives making an extremely minuscule contribution to slowing society's damage to the Earth. Even though environmentalists understand this, they still continue their lives in hopes that they will still make a difference with these small actions, or by trying to convert large populations over. This reasonless hope that they live on is the entire basis behind prayers of mainstream religions, where prayers are made, and hope is expressed for their prayer's wishes to become true. While traditional religion and environmentalism are not literally the same, they can be drawn equally as strongly of parallels as any other argument we've made beforehand, like the idea that nature is essentially a temple, or that Earth day is essentially a religious holiday.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)



What Makes a Religion

by Jaclyn Bahn - Saturday, June 3, 2017, 11:41 PM

I have a hard time with Paul H. Rubin's article comparing environmentalism to a religion. I can see my own religion as being influential on my beliefs. I follow a christian path but don't always agree with a religious organization, such as a church. I find myself almost being offended by the comparison actually. The way Rubin chooses to pull apart a religion and give it six bullet points that "make something a religion" misses what I view my religion as being, which is a relationship with a creator. Not the physical examples he chose. Rubin deciding that a religion is something with a holiday, a taboo food, a sacrifice, a non-logical belief system, a temple, and hatred towards non-believers could make many things fit under that category of religion. You could consider the LGBT community as a religion. Heck, You could even consider your grandmother as a religion.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

[Permalink](#) | [Show parent](#) | [Edit](#) | [Split](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)

◀ [Rights, Rights, and More Rights](#)

[Moodle Docs for this page](#)

[Accessibility at Lane](#)

You are logged in as Joe Escobar (Log out)

HST 203 Sp17 (Escobar Meta 41054 41053)