

## **PARP 6525-01: Perspectives on Integral Ecology**

Fall 2008

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### **Course Description:**

This course is considered foundational for those in the Integral Ecology track in PCC, whose mission is to study “the complex character of the Earth community, the factors that threaten it, and possibilities for a better way forward;” to “explore some of the vital links between ecology and such fields as philosophy, religion, psychology, and cosmology;” and to “learn strategies for a sustainable future” (see <http://www.ciis.edu/pcc/integralecology.php> ). Following a review of the state of the Earth, lectures and dialogue will engage such topics as Gaia Theory, eco-ethics and environmental justice, deep ecology, social ecology and green politics, and the relation of ecology to religion and spirituality, all in the context of integral approaches to theory and inquiry.

### **Learning Objectives:**

1. To understand the current state of the Earth (relative to human impact on climate, biodiversity, and essential resources).
2. To explore different approaches to a more integral understanding of ecology and environmental issues.
3. To consider current strategies for transitioning to the Ecozoic Era.

### **Learning Activities:**

Lecture, dialogue, occasional experiential exercises; student presentations.

### **Criteria of Evaluation:**

1. regular attendance and participation: 20%
2. mid-term proposal or report: 40%
3. final essay: 40%

**Grading Options:** Letter Grade

**Required Readings:**

Harding, S. (2006) *Animate Earth: Science, Intuition, and Gaia*. Sciencewriters Books.

Merchant, C. (2005). *Radical Ecology: The Search for a Livable World (Revolutionary Thought/Radical Movements)*(Second Edition). Routledge Books.

Merchant, C, Ed. (2008). *Ecology* (Second Edition). Humanity Books.

*Readings on reserve or handed out:* by Aurobindo, Gebser, Wilber, E. Morin, S. Hargens, and S. Kelly

**Weekly Schedule and Readings:**

1. *Introduction and overview*
2. *science and the evolution of worldviews*  
*Radical Ecology, 41-60; Ecology, 334-370*
3. *the state of the Earth*  
*Rad. Ecol., 17-40; web-based research*
4. *Gaia Theory, I:*  
Harding, pp. 7-129
5. *Gaia Theory, II:*  
Harding, pp. 130-222.
6. *Integral Theories, I*  
Aurobindo and Gebser (*reserve*)
7. *Integral Theories, II*  
Wilber and Morin (*reserve*)
8. *ethics and justice*  
*Rad. Ecol., 61-84; Ecol., 248-291*
9. *deep ecology*  
*Rad. Ecol., 85-109; Ecol., 120-151*

10. *society and politics :*  
*Rad. Ecol.,132-182; Ecol., 152-174*
11. *ecofeminism:*  
*Rad. Ecol., 183-209; Ecol., 174-247*
12. *religion and spirituality:*  
*Rad. Ecol., 110-131; Ecol., 292-332*
13. *looking ahead and presentations:*  
*Rad. Ecol., 211-240; Ecol., 78-119*
14. *presentations*  
TBA
15. *Conclusion*