

The Instructor

Marianne Karsh has a Master's degree in forestry from the University of Toronto and has worked as a forest research scientist for over 20 years in Canada and Iceland.

Marianne is the Ecology Project Coordinator for the Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph and is the founder of Arborvitae.

A deeply committed Christian and associate of the Sisters of St. John the Divine, she is co-author of "Trees, Forestry and the Responsiveness of Creation," published in *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature and the Environment*.

Course Fee: \$275

When: eight Thursday evenings,
7:00 – 9:30 pm (each week builds upon previous weeks)

Dates:

Week 1: April 22	Week 5: May 20
Week 2: April 29	Week 6: May 27
Week 3: May 6	Week 7: June 3
Week 4: May 13	Week 8: June 10

Course field trip:

Saturday, May 15, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Registration

Contact the Registrar, Loyola House,
at 519.824.1250 ext. 266 or email
registration@loyolahouse.ca

Further Information:

Contact Marianne Karsh, the Ecology Project,
at 519.824.1250 ext. 257 or email
ecologyeducation@ignatiushouse.ca

www.arborvitae.org
www.ignatiushouse.ca/ecology/



A Place of Peace

The Setting

The course takes place in and around Ignatius Farm at the Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph, Ontario. Its 600 acres of beautifully maintained grounds feature pristine forests, rivers, well-kept trails, rolling farm fields, an organic apple orchard, and community shared agriculture gardens.



Ignatius Jesuit Centre of Guelph
5420 Highway 6 North, RR 5
Guelph, Ontario, Canada N1H 6J2

www.ignatiushouse.ca



A Place of Peace

Nature and Spirituality



April 22 - June 10, 2010
Guelph, Ontario

Exploring the Importance of Nature For our Spiritual Journey

Faced with an unprecedented ecological crisis that threatens the very future of the planet, more and more people have come to agree with John B. Cobb that, “a faith that does not celebrate the Earth is meaningless or worse.”

In this informative, provocative course, you will learn what different faith traditions say about nature; how the latest scientific findings can help to inform our spirituality; and why our natural environment remains one of the richest and most potent sources of spiritual nourishment for people of faith.



Enriched by field trips, multimedia presentations, and intensive class discussions, Nature and Spirituality is designed for theology students, environmental studies students, religious/clergy, professionals working in environmental fields, and all people who care about the Earth.

“Nature and Spirituality is a course that, once taken, can be termed a “life experience.” Taking the course challenges participants to a deeper and broader appreciation of—and connection with—the Earth, others, God and, ultimately, oneself.”

Nancy French, St. John’s, Nfld.

Course Outline

Week 1: Celebrate Earth Day

Slide Show:
Beautiful Nature
Images by renowned photographer Malak Karsh. Time of reflection to explore what these images evoke in us.



Photo by Malak

Week 2: Biblical Background

What do the Scriptures from our rich Judeo-Christian background have to say about Creation? What does it mean that God has a covenant with the day and the night? What does it mean that Creation groans in travail as in childbirth?

Week 3: Trees, Forestry and the Responsiveness of Creation

How can we enter into an I-Thou relationship with Nature? How would we do our forestry differently if we viewed trees as kin? How do we understand the use of metaphor for nature in scripture?

Week 4: Eco-Theology and Science

What do science and the new physics have to say about the inter-relatedness of nature? What are the recent findings that suggest that nature is intelligent and “informed with wisdom”? Introduction and discussion of “The Nature Step”—an ecological model for business that works!

Week 5: Eco-Theology and Religious Thought

How have people thought about Creation, how have they let it nourish their lives? What do some of the Christian mystics have to say about Creation? What do Buddhist, Native North American and other world views have to say on Creation?

Week 6: Eco-Theology and Spirituality

What is spirituality? What is spiritual growth and how is it connected to Creation? How does Creation permeate our prayer, imagery and mindful awareness?

Week 7: Eco-Theology and Creativity

An evening of creativity. Exploration of dance, art, ritual, mandalas, drama and dream symbols, used as expressions of our kinship with Creation.

Week 8: Finale

Presentations by participants (poems, plays, art, slides, stories, images, sharing of dreams and symbols) as a response to all that we have learned.

Course Field Trip

Cultivating a relationship with trees and nature.

