THOREAU’S RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY:

from the Gita to Walden to Captain John Brown: Local and Planetary Contacts

Edward F. Mooney

Philosophy 500, Religion 600 Spring '08, Monday 12:45-3:30, HL-504

1) World Religions in Concord: Orientalism reversed
2) Death on the Concord: Hinduism and transmigration
3) Emerson and Hafiz: Islam and transcendentalism
4) Thoreau: The Sublime as Divinity
5) Thoreau: Paradise Lost and regained
6) The Journal: Yogic meditative practice
7) Thoreau and Stoic Religion: Managing emotion
8) Walden as New Testament: Ecstatic epistemology
10) Spirit’s Materiality: Rituals, and domesticity
11) Slavery as Apocalypse: Judgment and Deliverance
12) A Railroad in Concord: Truth as Action and Exposure
13) John Brown: Christian Terrorist and Holy Martyr
14) Krishna and Arguna: Action, Death and Immortality
15) War as Desecration; Writing as Consecration

Partial reading list

Thoreau; A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers
Walden

The Essays of Henry D. Thoreau, ed Louis Hyde:
"Walking," "A Defense of John Brown"; "Wild Apples"

Material on World Religions:

Wai-chee Dimock, Through Other Continents, "Emerson and World Religions", and "Globalization, world religions, and deep time"
Thomas A Tweed, Crossing and Dwelling, a Theory of Religion
Annette Aronowicz, "The Secret of the Man of Forty,"
History and

Theory, Vol. 32, No. 2. (May, 1993)
Elisabeth Hurth, American Transcendentalists Between
Belief
and Unbelief
Alan Hodder, Thoreau's Ecstatic Witness