

Author to Speak on “Dark Green” Nature Religion at UT

Author and professor Bron Taylor will discuss how a multi-faceted trend of “dark green religion” is becoming a global movement at the fourth annual David L. Dungan Memorial Lecture on Thursday, Feb. 20, at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Taylor’s lecture, “Spirituality After Darwin: ‘Dark Green’ Nature Religion as Global Religious Movement,” is sponsored by the Issues Committee and co-sponsored with UT’s Department of Religious Studies.

The event begins at 7 p.m. in the Carolyn P. Brown Memorial University Center auditorium. After the presentation, Taylor will participate in a question-and-answer session, and a reception and book signing will follow. Both events are free and open to the public.

“We are excited to have one of the pioneers of the important new field of religion, nature, and culture deliver our fourth Dungan Memorial Lecture,” said Rosalind Hackett, department head of Religious Studies.

Taylor observes that since Charles Darwin published “On the Origin of Species” in 1859, a new, global earth religion has been rapidly spreading. This religion focuses on defending Earth’s biocultural diversity, with followers feeling belonging in nature, expressing kinship with non-human organisms, and understanding the world to be deeply interconnected.

Taylor teaches religion, nature and environmental ethics at the University of Florida and is a Carson Fellow of the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich, Germany. In addition to teaching, Taylor is editor-in-chief of the award-winning Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature and founder of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture. His books include “Dark Green Religion: Nature Spirituality and the Planetary Future,” “Ecological Resistance Movements: the Global Emergence of Radical and Popular Environmentalism” and “Affirmative Action at Work: Law, Politics and Ethics.”

Co-sponsors of the lecture include the UT Central Program Council, Haines-Morris Endowment Fund, Program in American Studies, Departments of Anthropology, Earth and Planetary Sciences, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Geography, Microbiology, Philosophy, and Psychology.