

Animate Earth: Rejoining the Great Conversation

Description and Purpose:



The world speaks to us in uncounted gestures and voices. This course draws on the field of terrapsychology to help us tune into that vast conversation. You will learn how the events, features, and cycles around us show up inside us, how our history parallels that of the places where we live and work, how our wounds echo those of our troubled planet, and how we can bring healing to both. Reconnect to a world filled not with dead objects, but with presences continually speaking us into reenchantment.

Logistics and Etiquette:

- We will meet weekly via Zoom. Please email me if I haven't sent you the URL yet. I've scheduled an hour and a half for each meeting. The format will alternate between presentation, discussion, and practices to try out.
- Camera on, please, unless you have a temporary event on your end to deal with. To decrease background noise, please remain muted until ready to speak. [Here is a guide](#) if you are new to Zoom.
- Recommendation: For the first session, show up five minutes early to make sure your tech is working. If you need to miss a live session, I'm recording them and can send you a link to the recording.
- Please be mindful of how you show up, including how much time you take when speaking. We want to be sure everyone gets a chance to participate.
- Keep an eye on your dreams throughout the course. We can make space for discussing why they are important.

Schedule:

Week 1: From Disengagement to Reengagement

How did we get so numb to the presences around us? After briefly surveying this, we will study what we can learn from those who retained or recovered the capacity for tuning in on the symbolic speech of nature, place, Earth, and the elements. Traditions of listening to the land, waters, animals, insects, and other presences run through every culture; we will look in on this and discuss contemporary practices as well.

Week 2: As Without, So Within

In Week 2 we will see examples of how the features, occasions, histories, and even geographies of where we are show up in our moods, conflicts, inspirations, and dreams, coming to us over thick bridges of symbol that permeate our bodies, emotions, and

imaginings. The line of communication is open, sometimes overwhelmingly so. When our surroundings speak to us, we have multiple means available for picking up.

Week 3: Nature's Speech in Folklore and Myth

The ancient tales of the world's many human cultures are packed with wisdom about our relations with the world: how to act, what to avoid, what to explore further. If you've ever felt that some locales "like" and help you and others reject you, you are in good company. The old stories offer many lessons in how to align with the spirit of the places we choose to inhabit.

Week 4: Exploring Place Presences

Bringing together everything we have learned so far, we will assemble a list of reconnection practices for reentering the Great Conversation with everything around us that speaks to us through mood, symbol, sensation, and dream. With these practices we transition from a dispirited world of dead objects into a reenchanting realm of ongoing communications that invite us into a deeper relationship with ourselves, each other, and everything around us.