



WALTER H. CAPPS CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF
ETHICS, RELIGION, AND PUBLIC LIFE

For immediate release:
April 1, 2011

Contact: Dr. Leonard Wallock, Associate Director
Walter H. Capps Center for the Study
of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life
(805) 893-2317 / leonard.wallock@cappscenter.ucsb.edu

N E W S R E L E A S E

**The Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of
Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB presents:**

A Martin E. Marty Lecture on Religion in American Life

Richard Rodriguez
"The Desert and the Experience of God"

Thursday, April 21 / 8:00 p.m. / Free
Lobero Theatre, 33 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara

SUMMARY FACTS

- **Richard Rodriguez**
- **"The Desert and the Experience of God"**
- **Thursday, April 21 / 8:00 p.m. / Free**
- **Lobero Theatre, 33 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara**
- **Martin E. Marty Lecture on Religion in American Life**
- **Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB**
- **Information: Leonard Wallock at (805) 893-2317 or leonard.wallock@cappscenter.ucsb.edu**

Event Description:

Despite their ancient hostilities and modern antagonism, the Abrahamic religions--Judaism, Christianity, and Islam--are united in the belief in the monotheistic deity who revealed Himself in the desert. The question I ask is this: Of what importance is the experience of the desert for the knowledge of God? For the non-believer it is all a scandal--the long quarrel among these desert religions over a barren landscape of rocks and sand. For the believer, the wonder and the mystery is that God would reveal Himself to humans in a place we otherwise describe as a desolation.

Speaker Profile:

Richard Rodriguez is the best-selling author of *Hunger for Memory*, *Days of Obligation: An Argument With My Mexican Father* which was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize, and *Brown: The Last Discovery of America*. Hailed by *The Washington Post* as "one of the most eloquent and probing public intellectuals in the country," he received a George Foster Peabody Award for his PBS NewsHour Essays on American Life. Rodriguez is an editor at Pacific News Service and a contributing editor for *Harper's Magazine*, *U.S. News & World Report*, and the Sunday "Opinion" section of the *Los Angeles Times*. He has published numerous articles in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The American Scholar*, *Time*, *Mother Jones*, and *The New Republic*, as well as other publications. At present, he is writing a book on Judaism, Islam, Christianity, and the desert.

Sponsors:

Sponsored by the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life at UCSB. For further information, please contact Dr. Leonard Wallock at (805) 893-2317.