C656: Environmental Ethics: Syllabus, Fall Semester 2000

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Christian Theological Seminary
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Requirements:

1. **Reading and participation**: This is a seminar, so it is especially important that each student do the assigned reading and demonstrate knowledge of its content through thoughtful class participation, which does count in the final grade.

2. **Weekly Two-page paper on major issues in reading and discussion**: Nine papers are required, of no more than 2 pages each: Page 1 is to be a description of the main issues and insights gained from the reading and the discussion of the week. It should not be a list of topics covered, but a summary of what was important and interesting. Do Not use phrases like, "First we talked about, and then we talked about..." Instead, it should be more like, "The most important issue was about sin as loss of trust in God." Page 1 is also not to include your opinions - that comes on Page 2. Page 2 is your reflections on what was important, your growing edges, your further thinking about key insights.

3. **Worship**: Each class member will lead the class in 15-20 minutes of worship at the end of class that is meant to help students bring environmental concerns and theology into worship resources.

4. **Project**: Each student will design a project to be due toward the end of the semester. Proposals should be approved by October 3, and the project is due November 7. A term paper of about 15 pages is acceptable, but so are other kinds of projects, such as writing a curriculum for a course on ecojustice in a church, developing a youth project, writing a short story with a paper explaining it, or many others. We will discuss ideas in class, and the projects will be presented in class at the end of the semester.

Schedule:

August 29   First class: Introductions, Papers, Projects, Syllabus
            Divide up *World Watch Reader* for next week.
            Video: "Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice"
Sept. 5  
**One Analysis of the Eco-Justice Crisis: World Watch**

We'll divide the book among us and present its main points.

Land and Nature in Scripture and Other Traditions

Sept. 12  
**The First Testament and Creation**  
Bring your Bible  
"And the Leaves of the Tree", pp. 1-26.

Hessel and Ruether:  
Hiebert pp. 135-151 and DeWitt pp. 291-310.

Sept. 19  
**The Second Testament and Creation**  
Bring your Bible  
"And the Leaves of the Tree", pp. 27-35.

Hessel and Ruether:  

Sept. 26  
**Other Religious Traditions**

*Worldviews and Ecology*, ed. Mary Evelyn Tucker & John A. Grim:


"Hindu Environmentalism", Christopher Key Chapple, pp. 113-123.

"Toward a Buddhist Ecological Cosmology", Brian Brown, pp. 124-137.


Theology and the Environment

October 3  

October 10  
Edwards, Chapters 4-6 and Conclusion

Ethics and the Environment: Caring for the Oikos
October 17  Hessel and Ruether III: The Universal and Particular in Ethics and Spirituality [CJ away]
Nash and Traina, pp. 227-258
Cowdin, pp. 261-285
Lee and Kim, pp. 337-361

October 24  H & R IV: Toward Global Security and Sustainability
Barbour, pp. 385-399
Martin-Schram, pp. 439-449
French and Williams, pp. 473-95
Cobb, 497-510

October 31 No Classes: Focus on Ministry

Implications for Faith and Practice: Balancing Saving the Planet with Daily Life

November 7  H & R V: Christian Praxis for Ecology and Justice
Rasmussen, pp. 515-527
Daneel and Robra, pp. 531-557
Miller-Travis, pp. 559-571
Somplatsky-Jarman, Grazer, LeQuire, pp. 573-590
Mische, pp. 591-602
Ruether, pp. 603-613

Nov. 14  Hearing from the Trenches: Guest Speaker  (CJ away)
Nov. 21 No Classes: Thanksgiving Week
Nov. 28  Environmental Classic: Dakota by Kathleen Norris
December 5  Presenting Projects
Dec. 12  EXAM WEEK:  Finishing Presenting Projects

Bibliography

Required Reading:


Johnston, Carol. *And the Leaves of the Tree Are for the Healing of the Nations* (Louisville: Presbyterian Church (USA), 1997).


General Bibliography


Cobb, John B. *Sustaining the Common Good: A Christian Perspective on the Global Economy* (Cleveland: Pilgrim, 1995)
Daly, Herman E. and John B. Cobb, Jr.  *For the Common Good: Redirecting the Economy Toward Community, the Environment, and a Sustainable Future* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1989).


Freudenberger, C. Dean.  *Global Dust Bowl: Can We Stop the Destruction of the Land Before It is Too Late?* (Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1990).

Gibson, William. *Keeping and Healing the Creation* (Louisville: Presbyterian Church, USA, 1989).


Green, Elizabeth, and Mary Grey, eds. *Ecofeminism and Theology* (Kampen, Neth.: Kok Pharos, 1994).


Habel, Norman C. *The Land is Mine: Six Biblical Land Ideologies* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1995).


Henderson, Hazel. *Life Beyond Economics*

------------- *Paradigms in Progress*


Johnston, Carol. *And the Leaves of the Tree Are for the Healing of the Nations* (Louisville: Presbyterian Church USA, 1997).


McDonagh, Sean. *To Care for the Earth: A Call to a New Theology* (Santa Fe,NM: Bear & Co., 1986).

............... *Passion for the Earth* (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1995).


Meadow, Donald and Danielle. *Beyond the Limits: Confronting the Global Collapse* (Post Mills, VT: Chelsea Green Press)


Moore, M. E. *Ministering with the earth*. St. Louis: Chalice.


Peters, Ted. *The Cosmic Self* [New Age critique]

Pinches, Charles & McDani<