C656: Environmental Ethics: Syllabus, Spring Semester 1995

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. Research on the Responses of the Churches to the Eco-Justice Crisis: Find out what your or another denomination is doing locally and nationally and report to the class on activities and resources. (The work of a non-church nonprofit organization could also be researched, e.g. the new work on environmental racism of the N.A.A.C.P.)

3. Worship: Each class member will lead the class in 15-20 minutes of worship that is meant to help students bring environmental concerns and theology into worship resources. Can be done individually or in teams.

4. Project: Each student will design a project, such as a term paper, to be due at the end of the semester. Topics should be approved by March 15.

Schedule:

January 18  First class: Introductions, Projects, Syllabus
"Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice"

January 25  One Analysis of the Eco-Justice Crisis: Al Gore
Everyone read the Introduction and Chapters 10 & 12
We will divide up chapters 1-9, 11, 14 to report on.

Land and Nature in Scripture and Other Traditions


February 8  Hope for the Land: Nature in the Bible, by Richard Cartwright
Austin, pp. 87-126 and 150-163.

February 15  Spirit and Nature: An Interfaith Dialogue, ed. Steven C. Rockefeller and John C. Elder:
Introduction, pp 1-12.
Chapter 2. "Learning to Live with Less: A Jewish Perspective",
pp. 109-123.

Theology and the Environment

After Nature's Revolt:
Chapter 3. "Healing the Protestant Mind: Beyond the Theology of Human Dominion", Paul Santmire, pp. 57-78.

March 1   Liberating Life:

March 8  A Sense of the Divine, James Gustafson
[pages will be assigned later]

Ethics and the Environment: Caring for the Oikos

March 15  Liberating Life, Part 2: New Ethical Horizons,
Chapter 6. "Christianity and Animal Rights...", Tom Regan, pp. 73-87.
After Nature's Revolt:
Chapter 7. "Wildlife and Wildlands: A Christian Perspective"
Holmes Rolston III, pp. 122-143.
Chapter 8. "Creation as Kin: An American Indian View",
George E. Tinker, pp. 144-153.

March 22  NO CLASS: Happy reading!


April 5  Loving Nature, pp. 117-221.

April 12  HOLY WEEK: NO CLASS
Implications for Faith and Practice:
Balancing Saving the Planet with Daily Life

April 19  
*What Are People For?*, by Wendell Berry,
"Writer and Region", pp. 71-87
"God and Country", pp. 95-102
"A Practical Harmony", pp. 103-108
"What are People For?", pp. 123-125
"Waste", pp. 126-128
"The Work of Local Culture", pp. 153-169
"Nature as Measure", pp. 205-120

April 26  
Environmental Classics:  *Dakota* by Kathleen Norris

May 3  
FINAL PROJECTS DUE
C656: Environmental Ethics: Schedule for Projects and Worship:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Reports</th>
<th>Worship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bibliography for Environmental Ethics: C656, Spring 1994

Required Reading:


General Bibliography


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).


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


Henderson, Hazel. *Life Beyond Economics* .............. *Paradigms in Progress*


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


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


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


Shepherd, Rupert. *The Rebirth of Nature: Greening of Science and God*


Sittler, Joseph. *Essays on Nature and Grace*


