



Module

Ecology, Theology, & Ethics

Science Module for existing university or seminary level courses.

Drop in to a course syllabus (with modifications) in

Religious Studies

Systematic Theology: Creation

Ethics

Environmental Studies

1 week's assignment for 3 hours of class meeting

ECOLOGY & ETHICS

More than half a century ago scientists and futurists forecasted that reckless human practices--increased agricultural and industrial production, depletion of non-renewable natural resources, human population growth, pollution growth, and release of carbon into the atmosphere--would lead to climate change and biological die-backs. Those dire forecasts are now becoming fulfilled as Planet Earth suffers from losses in its life-giving power.

With the exception of the World Council of Churches in the late 1960s and 1970s, the theological community ignored scientific prophecies; religious leaders did not take the ecological challenge seriously until the Chernobyl nuclear spill in 1986. In more recent decades, theologians have moved the health of our planet into the center of their ethical concern. By tying ecological ethics with the longstanding Christian concern for global justice, theologians today are becoming spokespersons

for the kind of economic justice that is necessary if the human race is to take responsibility for planetary health.

DLO (Desired Learning Outcomes)

Added to the set of DLOs for the entire course. The student should also demonstrate...

1. knowledge of the debate over climate change;
2. ability to describe issues at stake;
3. awareness of theological and ethical commitments.

REQUIRED READING

EITHER,

OHRs *The Oxford Handbook of Religion and Science*, ed. by Philip Clayton and Zachary Simpson. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
ISBN 0-19-9279278-6. Hardbound 2006 or Paperback 2008 okay.

This comprehensive volume is valuable for almost all modules.

OHRs 13 Bratton, "Ecology and Religion"

OHRs 52 Deane-Drummond, "Theology, Ecology, and Values"

OHRs 53 Rolston, "Environmental Ethics and Religion/Science"

OR,

RCRS: *The Routledge Companion to Religion and*

Science, eds., James W. Haag, Gregory R. Peterson, and Michael L. Spezio. London: Routledge, 2012.
ISBN 978-0-415-49244-7 (hbk) or 978-0-203-80351-6 (ebk).

This comprehensive volume is valuable for almost all modules.

RCRS 30 Nathaniel F. Barrett, and William R. Jordan, III, "Frontiers in Religion and Ecology"

RCRS 31 Hava Tirosh-Samuels, "Judaism and the Science of Ecology"

RCRS 32 Christopher Key Chapple, "Asian Religions, Ecology, and the Integrity of Nature"

RCRS 33 Whitney A. Bauman, "Meaning-Making Practices and Environmental History"

OR,

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*.

https://w2.vatican.va/content/dam/francesco/pdf/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si_en.pdf

Rita Sherma on *Laudato Si* (available CTNS.org...Readings for Drop-In Modules)

RECOMMENDED READING

Moe-Lobeda, Cynthia, *Resisting Structural Evil: Love as Ecological-Economic Vocation*.

Minneapolis: Fortress, 2013. ISBN 978-1-4514-6267-8; eBook 978-1-4514-2639-7.