

CT9040P/ CT9049P

A Changed Climate for Theology: Ecological Challenges and Opportunities for the Christian Tradition.

Intensive unit: CT9040P - February 1, 2, 4 & 5

Online: CT9049P - Semester 1, 2019

Description

The ecological phenomenon of climate change relates to the essentially religious question of who we are and how we are to live. The unit examines the question of what an ecological context and approach means for Christian theology and praxis. It identifies some of the challenges this presents for questions of faith and understanding, and explores a number of significant ecological resources in the rich Christian tradition.

The unit adopts an interdisciplinary stance which integrates, and draws into mutual dialogue, three main components. 1) An ecological survey which focusses primarily on the question of climate change as well as the issues which are intricately connected with it (e.g. population, energy use, deforestation). 2) An introduction to ecological philosophy and principles (e.g. human-centredness vs bio-centredness, social vs ecological justice, animal ethics). 3) Exploration of a number of Christian texts (including Scripture, Augustine, Aquinas, and contemporary ecological theology).

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Identify and articulate key features of climate change and express the relationship between climate change to other key ecological issues.
2. Expound some key ecological principles and philosophies and explain how they relate to the present ecological context.
3. Identify and critically evaluate the primary compatibilities and challenges raised by an ecological ethos for Christian understanding and practice.
4. Identify and describe a particular ecological issue, explore it in relation to an aspect of ecological philosophy, and then critically analyse and interpret a Christian text or idea in light of it.

Assessment

Assessment Type	Weighting
One Reflective Paper (500 words)	15%
One Online quiz (500 words)	15%
One research essay (5000 words)	70%

Pre-requisite: 15 points in Systematic Theology.

Lecturer: Deborah Guess

Recommended reading

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Bauckham, Richard. *Bible and Ecology: Rediscovering the Community of Creation*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2010.

Cain, Clifford Chalmers. *An Ecological Theology: Reunderstanding Our Relation to Nature*. Vol. 98, Toronto Studies in Theology. Lewiston, Queenston, Lampeter: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2009.

*Conradie, Ernst M., Bergmann, Sigurd, Deane-Drummond, Celia and Edwards, Denis, eds. *Christian Faith and the Earth: Current Paths and Emerging Horizons in Ecotheology*. London: Bloomsbury, 2014.

Edwards, Denis. *Ecology at the Heart of Faith*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2006.

Dieter T Hessel and Rosemary Radford Ruether, eds. *Christianity and Ecology: Seeking the Well-Being of Earth and Humans*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000.

Gardiner, Stephen M. *A Perfect Moral Storm: The Ethical Tragedy of Climate Change*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Habel, Norman C. and Trudinger, Peter. *Exploring Ecological Hermeneutics*. Atlanta: Society of Biblical Literature, 2008.

*Johnson, Elizabeth A. *Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love*. London: Bloomsbury, 2014.

McFague, Sallie. *A New Climate for Theology: God, the World, and Global Warming*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008.

*Northcott, Michael S. and Scott, Peter M. *Systematic Theology and Climate Change: Ecumenical Perspectives*. London: Routledge, 2014.

Santmire, H. Paul. *Before Nature: A Christian Spirituality*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.