

MN567 SPECIAL TOPICS: THEOLOGY & THE ENVIRONMENT FALL 2018

3 Credits: letter grade only

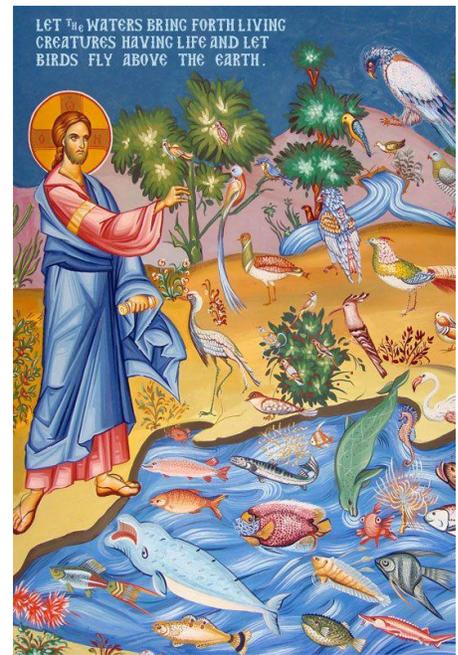
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Course Description

This course will explore the witness, role, and stewardship of Creation in the life of Christian discipleship. Drawing upon theological, biblical, and formational literature & media, students will practice engaging their environment, both built and natural, using practices of attentiveness informed by Christian tradition and natural interpretation; explore biblical understandings of Creation; reflect on Creation from a diversity of theological frameworks; and consider the history of just and unjust use of Creation, and its effects on human flourishing. Students will develop a final project to connect course materials and learning with their ministry context.



Course Objectives By participating fully in this class, students will:

1. Learn and practice a method of contemplative practical theological reflection in order to reflect on their own and their ministry context's understanding of Creation;
2. Articulate the characteristics and impact of cultural formation on our relationship with Creation;
3. Be able to describe and assess the ways that a particular Christian community approaches to creation and its stewardship;
4. Craft a creative and formative communal practice or learning experience which puts into practice their learning and insights from the course in their ministry context (i.e., Christian education course, worship service, small group study and/or action, workshop, community event, etc.) and invites participants to engage more deeply with Creation as disciples.

M.Div. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Lead and nurture congregations to promote peace and justice in the public arena and encourage the witness and service of the church in mission to the world.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

MAMD Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
- Adopt spiritual practices that nurture their personal lives as faithful disciples and witnesses.
- Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

Requirements

1. Attendance and attentive participation in the class, both online and in person – 20%
2. Field journal – 20%
3. Book summaries – 20%
4. Ministry Context Description and Analysis – 10%
5. Final ministry context project to be determined in conversation with the professor - 30%

Required Course Texts

Daniel Brunner, Jennifer Butler, A. J. Swoboda, Bill McKibben. *Introducing Evangelical Ecotheology: Foundations in Scripture, Theology, History, and Praxis*. ISBN 978-0801049651.

Pope Francis. *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. ISBN: 978-1612783864.

John Muir Laws. *Nature Journaling and Drawing*. ISBN: 978-1597143158.

Other course texts TBA.