

God and Nature I

10-14 October 2016
Creation Care Study Program, New Zealand
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Central to the mission of CCSP, this course helps students to develop a theology of creation that understands humans as stewards of the earth. Through the study of scripture, and other relevant texts, students explore the theology of creation, biblical stewardship, questions of faith and science, and Christian responses to current environmental problems.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

We will develop a Christian theological framework in which to explore nature and Christian discipleship as it relates to it, and conduct those explorations. Readings concentrate in 'ecological theology,' while lectures focus on relating major theological topics to ecological concerns. In the process we will engage in critical and interdisciplinary thinking, engage pertinent biblical texts, attend to a number of salient practices, problems, and ethical issues, and evaluate a major recent example of ecological theology.

REQUIREMENTS

A. Readings

Required:

The Bible, selections.

Christopher Doran, *Hope in the Age of Climate Change: Creation Care this Side of the Resurrection* (Wipf and Stock, forthcoming), introduction and chapters 1-3.

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home*,
w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html, selections.

A few individual articles and chapters along the way.

Recommended (someday):

Richard Bauckham, *The Bible and Ecology: Rediscovering the Community of Creation* (Baylor, 2010).

B. Evaluation

1. class participation (20%)
2. final exam (80%): ecological and (especially) theological appraisal of *Laudato Si*

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Class Session</u>	<u>Question and Topic</u>	<u>Reading Due</u>
Monday Morning Evening	Frameworks for ecology Worldviews: apocalyptic, apostolic, and otherwise Framing and painting: Interdisciplinary theology	Doran intro Ezekiel 36-37 Ephesians 3
Tuesday Morning Evening	Aspects of the relationships we call creation Doctrines of creation and their rivals Doctrines of humanity	Doran ch 1 Genesis 1:1-2:25, Psalm 104, 19 Psalm 8, Colossians 1:13-23, Hebrews 1:1-2:18
Wednesday Morning Evening	Estranged and reconciled Sin, depravity, and vice Atonement and judgment	Doran ch 2 Genesis 3:1-9:28, Romans 1:16-3:20 Psalm 107
Thursday Morning Evening	Salvation and nature Living in atonement: soteriology and ecclesiology New relationships with God	Doran ch 3 Psalm 19, Job 38-41 John 1:1-18, 2 Corinthians 3
Friday Morning Evening	Mission, power, and ecology Apostolicity; statehood Virtue; conclusion	Laudato Si 1 Timothy 1:12-2:7 Galatians 5:13-26, 2 Peter 1:1-11