Course Description

This seminar explores the vital connection between ecology and the theology and practice of Christian worship. It unfolds in three progressive stages: Part I focuses on “Earth our home ~ Thanksgiving and praise our vocation.” Part II explores “The Earth in crisis ~ Conversion, lament and intercession our response.” Part III focuses on “Earth healed and restored ~ Ecological worship and ethical living as our path to the future.” Theological, liturgical and scientific perspectives will be explored using a wide range of authors, with specific attention to Franciscan themes.

Student Learning Outcomes
At the end of this course, students will:

- be able to articulate an understanding of scientific approaches to the world, especially with regard to ecological crises, evolution, and the climate crisis;
- be conversant with the theological implications of the relationship between liturgy and ecology, especially through frameworks offered by theologians and Christian denominational/ecumenical documents;
- be increasingly aware of connections between liturgy and how we live on this planet and in the created universe;
- be empowered to take ecological leadership in their communities ecclesially and liturgically;
- be able to initiate and appropriate strategies for change;
- be familiar with available resources concerning liturgy and ecology.

Required Texts


Recommended Text

Collection of *Readings designated in the syllabus and others given in class.
Course Requirements
1. Attendance and participation in seminar discussion.
2. Required reading.
3. Weekly Written Assignment. Based on each week’s readings, please prepare a 1-2 page summary of:
   1) key terms used by authors
   2) major issues they raise
   3) your own questions stimulated by the reading.
4. Contribution to a common bibliography of books, articles, films, DVDs, pertinent to ecology and liturgy. Each student will compile a list during the semester (in addition to the initial bibliography given by the professors) and will submit it for compilation by November 23.
5. Developing an ecological-liturgical consciousness. Each student is invited to select one aspect of the created world (water, birds, trees...) and one aspect of liturgy (eucharistic euchology; psalmody; use of elements of water, bread, wine, etc.) with which s/he will become more affectively engaged in the course of the semester. This developed consciousness will be demonstrated in various ways: seminar discussion, choice of topic for final paper, bibliography compiled, or other creative ways.
6. Final Research Paper or Annotated Bibliography. Each student will prepare one of the following: 1) a research paper (15-20 pages) that focuses on a topic related to ecology and liturgy (topic to be approved by professors); or 2) an annotated bibliography of books, articles, resources (beyond course readings) on some aspect of ecology and liturgy (minimum 20 entries, with extensive annotation). Students should submit a proposal for research paper (with topic, thesis statement, outline, preliminary bibliography) or annotated bibliography (topic, preliminary bibliography, sample annotation) to the professors by October 19, 2009. Final Papers / Bibliographies due December 7, 2009.

Twenty minute presentation of papers and annotated bibliographies will be scheduled for classes December 7 and 14, 2009.

Pre-class videos (Optional) - Throughout the semester (Sept. 21-Nov. 30), a pre-class video/DVD will be offered from 1:00 to 1:50pm in the Classroom. This program will be open to other students at the GTU. Students are urged to take advantage of this series. Feel free to bring a brown bag lunch. See separate schedule for specific titles.

Final Self-assessment of your participation and learning in the course, based on the learning goals identified on page 1 of the syllabus. Due December 7, 2009.

Grading will be based on seminar participation; demonstration that readings have been thoughtfully prepared; all written assignments including final paper/annotated bibliography; oral presentation; and final self-assessment.

Procedure for finding PDF files on EBSCOHost (for additional articles you can access through the GTU Lib)
Go to GTU Library home page (http://www.gtu.edu/library)
Select Afind articles® in left hand column
Select AEBSCO Host® and sign in Aoff campus® (using your name and library card number)
Select ASeselect all®, then select Acontinue®
Type the name of the article in the first box, and select Atitle® in box to the right
Type the name of the author in the second box, and select Aauthor® in the box to the right
Select Asearch® B the article should appear (there may be others as well)
    -beneath the article citation you can select APDF file® B and the article will appear.
SYLLABUS

September 14, 2009:  Introduction to the course, professors, and class.

PART I: EARTH OUR HOME B THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE OUR VOCATION

September 21, 2009: Creator Spirit B Wonder, Awe and Praise (Psalms, rhythms of worship)

Required Reading
Uhl, Developing Ecological Consciousness. Preface (xv-xxii) and Chapter 1 Discovering Home: Earth=s Origin and History (5-29).
Edwards, Ecology at the Heart of Faith. Introduction (1-6) and Chapter 3 The Creator Spirit: Giver of Life (27-47).
Hildegard of Bingen. The Man in Sapphire Blue: Study in Compassion (23-25).

September 28, 2009: Deep Incarnation B Parables, Preaching, Euchology

Required Reading
Uhl, Developing Ecological Consciousness. Chapter 2 Cultivating Awareness: A Living Planet (33-61).
Edwards, Ecology at the Heart of Faith. Chapter 4 Ecological Commitment and the Following of Jesus (48-64).
Hildegard of Bingen, Egg of the Universe (34-37).

Recommended Reading
Delio, Care for Creation. Chapter 3, Embodying the Incarnate Word in Creation (55-64).

October 5, 2009: God as Communion in Diversity B Sacramentality of the Earth

Required Reading
Uhl, Developing Ecological Consciousness. Chapter 3 Seeking Understanding: Earth=s Web of Life (63-89).
Hildegard of Bingen, Veriditas: Greening Power (30-33).

Recommended Reading
Delio, Care for Creation. Chapter 6, Experiencing Kinship with Creation (95-108).
October 12, 2009: AFearfully, wonderfully made@ (Imago Dei) B Mysticism of Ecological Prayer

Required Reading
Uhl, Developing Ecological Consciousness. Chapter 4, A Nurturing Relationship: Intimacy and Life@ (91-122).
Delio, Care for Creation. Chapter 7 and 8: AEcology of the Oikos@ and A Franciscan Contemplation.@ (109-122).
Edwards, Ecology at the Heart of Faith. Chapter 2 A Human Beings within the Community of Life: A Made in the Image of God@ (7-26).
Johnson, Women, Earth and Creator Spirit. Chapter 4 ADiscerning Kinship with Earth@ (29-40).
Hildegard of Bingen. A The Cosmic Wheel@ (38-41).

Recommended Reading
Hildegard of Bingen. A The Human as Microcosm of the Macrocosm@ (42-45).

PART II: ASSESSING THE HEALTH OF THE EARTH B CONVERSION, LAMENT, AND INTERCESSION OUR RESPONSE

October 19, 2009: Crucified Earth B Thirsting for the waters of life

Due today: Proposal for final research paper or annotated bibliography, (see p. 2)

Required Reading
Uhl, Developing Ecological Consciousness. Chapter 5 AL istening: Gaging the Health of the Earth@ (123-153).
McFague, A New Climate for Theology. Part One, Chapter 1 and 2: A Climate Change: The Evidence and Consequences,@ and A Global Warming: A Theological Problem@ (9-40).
Johnson, Women, Earth and Creator Spirit. Preface; Chapters 1 and 2, A The Crisis: Ecocide@ and AA Taproot of the Crisis: The Two-Tiered Universe@ (1-22).
Hildegard of Bingen. ASin= Drying up@ (63-65).

Recommended Reading
Delio, Care for Creation. Chapter 9 A Contemplating Our Crucified Earth@ (139-154).

October 27, 2009: no class, reading week.

November 2, 2009: Ecocide B Conversion, Lament, and Intercession

Required Reading
Uhl, Developing Ecological Consciousness. Chapter 6 ADiscernment: Deciphering the Causes of Earth=s Breakdown.@ (157-183)
Delio, Care for Creation. Part Four, Chapters 10 and 11. A The Ecology of Conversion@ and A The Spirituality of Conversion.@ (155-184)
McFague, A New Climate for Theology. Part Two, Chapters 3 and 4. A Who are We? Ecological Anthropology@ and A Who is God? Creation and Providence@ (43-80).
Hildegard of Bingen. A Adam=s Fall@ (58-60).
**Recommended Reading**
Delio, *Care for Creation*. Chapter 12 Eco-PenanceÆConversion in Action@ (185-200).

**November 9, 2009: Planetary Crisis Æ Faithful Feasting**

**Required Reading**
McFague, *A New Climate for Theology*. Part Three, Chapter 6 Why We Worship: Praise and Compassion as Intimations of Transcendence@ (101-120); and Chapter 7 Where We Live: Urban Ecotheology@ (132-139 only) Christianity and the body Metaphor@).
Johnson, *Women, Earth and Creator Spirit*. Chapter 3 Hearkening to Women=s Wisdom@ (23-28).
Hildegard of Bingen. Cultivating the Cosmic Tree@ (46-49).

**Recommended Reading**
McFague, *A New Climate for Theology*. Chapter 7, pages 121-132 only.

**PART III: HEALING OURSELVES, HEALING EARTH Æ ECOLOGICAL WORSHIP AND ETHICAL LIVING: OUR PATH TO THE FUTURE**

**November 16, 2009: The Churches speak out Æ Transformation of our rites and symbols**

**Required Reading**
Uhl, *Developing Ecological Consciousness*. Chapter 8 Story: Creating Meaning in a Time of Crisis@ (227-259).
Johnson, *Women, Earth and Creator Spirit*. Chapter 6 Conversion to the Circle of the Earth@ (61-68).
Hildegard of Bingen. The Creator=s Glory, Creation=s Glory@ (50-53).

**Resources: **Seasons of Creation B http://www.webofcreation.org/SeasonofCreation/index.html

**Recommended Reading**
(All articles can be found in Gottlieb, Roger S. ed. *This Sacred Earth*. New York: Routledge, 2004.)
*American Baptist Churches, USA: Creation and the Covenant of Caring@ (210-214).
*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: Basis for our Caring@ (215-222).
*John Paul II: The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility@ (202-209).
  * See other documents in *This Sacred Earth* (189-382) on reserve at GTU library.
November 23, 2009: A Charter for the Earth  B Transformation of liturgical architecture, euchology, preaching, hymnody

Due today: Contribution to a common bibliography (see p. 2)

Required Reading
Uhl, Developing Ecological Consciousness. Chapter 9 A Creativity: Designing a Sustainable Society@ (263-303).
The Earth Charter. www.earthcharteraction.org, or www.earthcharterus.org
Hildegard of Bingen. A Redemption: Cosmic Healing, Cosmic Regeneration@ (106-109).

Resources
*ICEL, Eucharistic Prayer A.
(The following articles taken from Gottlieb, Roger S. ed. This Sacred Earth. New York: Routledge, 2004.)
*A Invocation@ (550-552).
*A Gaia Meditations@ (552-554).
*Lachecki: A The Blessing of Water@ (509-562).
See other resources in This Sacred Earth (509-562) on reserve at the GTU library.

November 30, 2009: Toward the Omega Point: Environmental activism  B Liturgical activism

Required Reading
Uhl, Developing Ecological Consciousness. Chapter 10 A Empowerment: Transforming Self, Transforming Society@ (307-343).
Edwards, Ecology at the Heart of Faith. Chapter 6 A The Final Transformation of All Things@ (82-97).
*Berry, Thomas. A Into the Future, in This Sacred Earth. 492-496.
*Fretheim, Terrence. A Creation and Sabbath, God and Time, in God and the World. 61-64.
*Power, David N. A The Eucharistic Table: In Communion with the Hungry, in Worship 83, no5 (September, 2009): 386-398.
Hildegard of Bingen. A New Heaven, New Earth@ (110-113).

Recommended Reading
Edwards, Ecology at the Heart of Faith. Chapter 8 A Ecology at the Heart of Christian Faith@ (119-123).

December 7, 2009: Student Presentations

Due today: 1) Final research paper or annotated bibliography; 2) Self-assessment of participation in the course. (see p. 2)

December 14, 2009: Student presentations, course evaluation, refreshments