

LSST 4015
ECOLOGY AND LITURGY
Spring Semester, 2012
Franciscan School of Theology
Professor Mary E. McGann, RSCJ (510-848-5232) (mmcgann@fst.edu)
Office Hours: by appointment

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

Delio, Illia, Keith D. Warner, and Pamela Wood. *Care for Creation: A Franciscan Spirituality of the Earth*. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2008.

Edwards, Denis. *Ecology at the Heart of Faith: The Change of Heart That Leads to a New Way of Living on Earth*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 2008.

Johnson, Elizabeth A. *Women, Earth, and Creator Spirit*. New York: Paulist Press, 1993.

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

Uhl, Christopher. *Developing Ecological Consciousness: Paths to a Sustainable World*. Latham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2003.

Recommended Text

Hildegard of Bingen (text), Matthew Fox (commentary). *Illuminations of Hildegard of Bingen*. Santa Fe, NM: Bear & Co. 1985.

*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 Aselect 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*. APreface@ (xv-xxii) and Chapter 1 ADiscovering Home: Earth=s Origin and History@ (5-29).
- Edwards, *Ecology at the Heart of Faith*. AIntroduction@ (1-6) and Chapter 3 AThe Creator Spirit: AGiver of Life@ (27-47).
- Johnson, *Women, Earth and Creator Spirit*. Chapter 5, A Remembering Creator Spirit@ (41-60).
- *Mick, Lawrence E. ACultivating a Sense of Awe and Wonder,@ in *Liturgy and Ecology in Dialogue*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1997. 33-41.
- *Fretheim, Terrence E. ANature=s Praise of God,@ in *God and World in the Old Testament*. 249-266. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2005.
- *Ciferni, Andrew. AChristian Day,@ in *At That Time*. J. Wilde, ed. 15-22. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1989.
- Hildegard of Bingen. AThe 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 ACultivating Awareness: A Living Planet@ (33-61).
- Delio, *Care for Creation*. Part One: Chapters 1 and 2. AEcology and Creation@ and AIs Creation the House of God?@ (19-52).
- Edwards, *Ecology at the Heart of Faith*. Chapter 4 A Ecological Commitment and the Following of Jesus@ (48-64).
- *Hilkert, Mary Catherine. ANature=s Parables and the Preaching of the Gospel,@ in *The Wisdom of Creation*, E. Foley and R. Schreier, eds. 107-118. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2004.
- *Runyon, Theodore. ACreation Theology and Worship,@ in *Dictionary of Sacramental Worship*. 299-302. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1990.
- Hildegard of Bingen, AEgg of the Universe@ (34-37).

Recommended Reading

- Delio, *Care for Creation*. Chapter 3, AEmbodying 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, ASeeking Understanding: Earth=s Web of Life@ (63-89).
- Delio, *Care for Creation*. Part Two: Chapters 4 and 5. AEcology of the Canticle of Creation@ and ACreation as Family@ (65-93)
- Edwards, *Ecology at the Heart of Faith*. Chapter 5, AThe Diversity of Life and the Trinity@ (65-81).
- *DeLisio, Therese B. AConsidering the Cosmos as Primary Sacrament,@ *Proceedings of the North American Academy of Liturgy 2006* (160-184).
- *Irwin, Kevin. AThe Sacramentality of Creation and the Role of Creation in Liturgy and Sacraments,@ in *And God Saw That it Was Good*,@ D. Christiansen, ed. 105-146. Washington, DC: U. S. Catholic Conference, 1996.
- Hildegard of Bingen, AVeriditas: Greening Power@ (30-33).

Recommended Reading

- Delio, *Care for Creation*. Chapter 6, AExperiencing Kinship with Creation@ (95-108).

October 12, 2009: A Fearfully, 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: A Ecology 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 A Discerning Kinship with Earth@ (29-40).
- *Hart, John. A Introduction: Sacramental Creation,@ in *Sacramental Commons*. xiii-xxv. New York: Roman and Littlefield, 2006.
- Hildegard of Bingen. A The Cosmic Wheel@ (38-41).

Recommended Reading

- Hildegard of Bingen. A The Human as Microcosm of the Macrocosm@ (42-45).
- *Himes, Michael J. and Kenneth R. Himes. A The Sacrament of Creation: Toward an Environmental Theology,@ in *Franciscan Theology of the Environment: An Introductory Reader*. Dawn M. Northwehr, ed. 345-360. Quincy, IL: Franciscan Press, 2006.

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 A Listening: 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 A A Taproot of the Crisis: The Two-Tiered Universe@ (1-22).
- *Chung, Meehyun. A Water and Rice: A Korean Eco-Feminist Theological Perspective,@ in *Breaking Silence: Theology from Asian Women*. 90-102. Delhi: ISPCK/EATWOT, 2006.
- Hildegard of Bingen. A Sin CDrying 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 A Discernment: 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).
- *Saliers, Don E. A Lamenting and Confessing: Truthful Prayer@ and A Interceding: Remembering the World to God,@ in *Worship as Theology: Foretaste of Glory Divine*. 118-136. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994.
- Hildegard of Bingen. A Adam=s Fall@ (58-60).

Recommended Reading

- Delio, *Care for Creation*. Chapter 12 "Eco-Penance: Conversion in Action" (185-200).
McFague, *A New Climate for Theology*. Chapter 5: "How Shall We Live? Christianity and Planetary Economics" (81-97).
*Power, David. "When to Worship Is to Lament," in *Worship: Culture and Theology*. 155-173. Washington, DC: Pastoral Press, 1990.

November 9, 2009: Planetary Crisis & Faithful Feasting

Required Reading

- Uhl, *Developing Ecological Consciousness*. Chapter 7 "Courage: Planetary Destabilization" (187-225).
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).
*Parentelli, Gladys. "Latin America's Poor Women: Inherent Guardians of Life." In *Women Healing Earth*. Rosemary Radford Ruether, ed. 29-38. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1996.
*Northcott, Michael. "Faithful Feasting," in *A Moral Climate: The Ethics of Global Warming*. 232-266. Maryknoll: Orbis, 2007.
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 & ECOLOGICAL WORSHIP AND ETHICAL LIVING: OUR PATH TO THE FUTURE

November 16, 2009: The Churches speak out & 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).
*U.S. Catholic Bishops. *Global Climate Change: A Plea for Dialogue, Prudence and the Common Good*. 1-23. Washington, DC: U.S. Catholic Conference, 2001.
*Ruether, Rosemary R. "Greening Liturgy: Integrating Ecology into Liturgical Theology and Practice," in *Proceedings of the North American Academy of Liturgy 2001*. 22-35.
Edwards, *Ecology at the Heart of Faith*. Chapter 7 "Worship and Practice" (99-118).
*Mick, Lawrence E. "Some Practical Suggestions" in *Liturgy and Ecology* (71-90).
Hildegard of Bingen. "The Creator's Glory, Creation's Glory" (50-53).

Resources: Seasons of Creation & <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).
*World Council of Churches: "A Report, 'Liberating Life'" (1996 ed., 251-269).
*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

*Boff, Leonardo. AThe Ethic of Care,@ in *A Voice for the Earth: American Writers Respond to the Earth Charter*. 129-145. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2008.

McFague, *A New Climate for Theology*. Part Four, Chapters 8 and 9. AIs A Different World Possible?@ and A>The Dearest Freshness Deep Down Things=@ (143-158).

*Fragomini, Richard. ALiturgy at the Heart of Creation,@ in *The Ecological Challenge: Ethical, Liturgical, and Spiritual Responses*. 67-81. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1994.

*Foley, Edward, et al. APreparation of the gifts,@ in *The Ecological Challenge*. 83-101.

Hildegard of Bingen. ARedemption: 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.)

*AA Service of Worship: The Earth Is the Lords@ (1996 ed., 480-483).

*AInvocation@ (550-552).

*AGaia Meditations@ (552-554).

*Lachecki: AThe 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 AEmpowerment: 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. AInto the Future,@ in *This Sacred Earth*. 492-496.

*Crossan, Dominic. AGod and the Ambiguity of Power,@ in *God and Empire*. 49-54 only. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2007.

*Fretheim, Terrence. ACreation and Sabbath, God and Time,@ in *God and the World*. 61-64.

*Ingram, Beryl. AEco-Justice Liturgics,@ in *Theology for Earth Community: A Field Guide*, Dieter T. Hessel, ed. 250-264. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1996.

*Power, David N. AThe Eucharistic Table: In Communion with the Hungry.@ *Worship* 83, no5 (September, 2009): 386-398.

Hildegard of Bingen. ANew Heaven, New Earth@ (110-113).

Recommended Reading

Edwards, *Ecology at the Heart of Faith*. Chapter 8 AEcology 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