

TRINITY THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Contemporary Issues in Mission: Creation Care

Semester 2, 2020-2021

Course Instructor: Andrew Peh

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Course Description

This course explores a specific topic of current interest in the area of mission studies: the ecological concerns of climate change and global warming as an integral part of the mission of God (*Missio Dei*). It will trace the history and shape of this emerging area of mission and will examine the intention of God for creation and the role of humanity in the stewardship of the created order. On a practical level, the development of a mission programme and suitable structures within the local church for the promotion and practice of creation care as an integral aspect of *Missio Dei* will also be discussed with an opportunity for the formulation of appropriate strategies.

Course Objectives

1. To heighten awareness of the magnitude of the social and ecological crises, and the necessity of a Christian response.
2. To critique the relationship between elements of the Christian tradition that has contributed to the current crises and to articulate the significance of care for creation as an integral part of the mission of God.
3. To develop an adequate Scriptural/ethical framework and a responsive spirituality in our personal and social responsibility in loving and saving God's creation.

Course Outline

1. Definitions and concepts pertaining to climate change/creation care.
2. Creation care from Old Testament perspectives.
3. Creation care from New Testament perspectives.
4. Theological contributions from various ecclesiastical traditions.
5. Practical Applications

Methodology

The course will involve lectures, videos, class discussions of topics and issues, group presentation, individual research, (lots of) reading and reflection.

Requirements and Grading

Assessment will be based on the submission of following assignments:

Assignment 1:

Attendance and participation during class will be noted. Besides the assigned reading, submit a list of 40 news articles and/or online articles/videos that addresses the topic of climate change and creation care (10 for each month, not inclusive of the articles assigned or videos screened in this class) that you have read/viewed. Submit a declaration, together with assignment 1, that you have read all the prescribed reading assignments for this course.

Due date: Friday, 14th May 2021

30% of the course

Assignment 2:

A. Select **one** of the following passages and present your findings on how it should be applied (or how it has been misunderstood or misapplied) as it relates to the creation care:

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 148

Romans 8:18-25

Colossians 1:15-20

1 Peter 3:8-14

Revelation 22:1-7

Due date: Wed, 3rd Mar 2021

30% of the course

OR

B. Course Project: Plan, organize and execute a **sustainable** programme in your church/ministry/TTC highlighting creation care as an important aspect of mission. This may involve talks, video presentation and/or sermons (please consult with your pastors/ministry heads) to create awareness and provide information on the importance of creation care as part of God's mission. Make a 30-minute presentation of this project to the class integrating the material from this course

Due date: Wed, 21st April 2021

30% of the course

Assignment 3:

In a final paper (about 2500 words, with proper notations), articulate your perspective/theology of creation care integrating your readings from the course with particular reference to the course readings.

Due date: Friday, 14th May 2021

40% of the course

Course Texts

Required reading will include specified sections of the recommended textbook plus other materials as relevant to class discussions or individual assignments.

A. Recommended Textbook(s):

Snyder, Howard. *Salvation Means Creation Healed*. OR: Cascade Books, 2011

Clough, David. *On Animals Vol 1*. London: Bloomsbury, 2012.

Moo, Douglas and Moo, *Creation Care*. MI: Zondervan Books, 2018.

B. Supplementary Reading:

Bell, Colin and White, Robert. Eds. *Creation Care and the Gospel*. MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 2016.

Bliss, Lowell. *Environmental Missions: Planting Churches and Trees*. CA: William Carey Library, 2013

Bouma-Prediger, Steven. *For the Beauty of the Earth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2010

Darby, Kathleen Ray, ed. *Theology that Matters: Ecology, Economy and God*. MN: Fortress Press, 2006.

Gates, Bill. *How to Avoid a Climate Disaster*. New York: Random House, 2021

Habel, Norman C. and Vicky Balabanski, eds. *The Earth Story in the New Testament*. London, UK: Sheffield Academic Press 2002.

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

Kaoma, Kapya J. ed. *Creation Care in Christian Mission*. OR: Wif and Stock Publishers, 2015.

Kureethadam, Joshtrom. *Creation in Crisis: Science, Ethics, Theology*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2014

Northcott, Michael. *A Moral Climate - the Ethics of Global Warming*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 2009

Toley, Noah J. and Daniel I. Block, eds. *Keeping God's Earth: The Global Environment in Biblical Perspective*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2010.

van Houtan, Karl S. and Northcott, Michael. *Diversity and Dominion: Dialogues in Ecology, Ethics, and Theology*. OR: Cascade Books, 2010

Wirzba, Norman. *From Nature to Creation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

- 6th Jan Introduction.
Video: *“Before the Flood”*
- 13th Jan Global Warming? Climate Change?
The Roots of the Crisis
Read:
Synder’s *Salvation Means Creation Healed*, Ch 1 & 2
Clough’s *On Animals*, Intro and Ch 1
- 20th Jan Biblical Foundations for Creation Care
Read:
Synder’s *Salvation Means Creation Healed*, Ch 3 & 4
Clough’s *On Animals*, Ch 2 & 3
Laurel Kearns, *The Context of Eco-Theology*
- 27th Jan Old Testament Perspectives
Read:
Synder’s *Salvation Means Creation Healed*, Ch 5 & 6
Clough’s *On Animals*, Ch 4 & 5
- 3rd Feb New Testament Perspectives - Gospels
Read:
Synder’s *Salvation Means Creation Healed*, Ch 7 & 8
Clough’s *On Animals*, Ch 6 & 7
- 10th Feb CNY Break - No Class
Read:
Synder’s *Salvation Means Creation Healed*, Ch 9 & 10
Clough’s *On Animals*, Conclusion
Braatan’s *All Creation Groans*
- 17th Feb Scientific Perspectives
Guest speaker: Dr Alistair Chew
Read:
Synder’s *Salvation Means Creation Healed*, Ch 11 & 12
- 24th Feb Scientific Perspectives
Video: *“Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch”*
Read:
Synder’s *Salvation Means Creation Healed*, Ch 13 & Conclusion
Chris Wright, The Arena of God’s Mission, in *The Mission of God*, Ch 12
- 3rd Mar Student Presentations #1
Read:
Moo’s *Creation Care*, Ch 1, 2 & 3
- Mid semester Break 8th - 19th March

- 24th Mar Wildlife Conservation
 Guest speakers: tbc
 Read:
 Moo's *Creation Care*, Ch 4, 5 & 6
- 31st Mar Strategies and Plans
 Guest speaker: tbc
 Read:
 Moo's *Creation Care*, Ch 7, 8 & 9
 Pope Francis' *Laudato Si*
 Chrissyavgis's *A New Heaven and a New Earth*
- 7th Apr Visit to Pulau Semakau
 Read:
 Moo's *Creation Care*, Ch 10 & 11
- 14th Apr National/Political Perspectives
 Case Studies
 Read:
 Moo's *Creation Care*, Ch 12 & 13
 Lausanne Movement's *Call to Action*
 OMF's Statement on Creation Care
 World Vision's *Plan for Creation Care*
- 21st Apr Student Presentations #2
 Read:
 Moo's *Creation Care*, Ch 14
- 28th Apr Final Lecture
 Read:
 Richter's *A Biblical Theology of Creation Care*
 Effa's *The Greening of Mission*
 Synder's *Creation Healed*
- 3rd - 7th May Revision Week
 10th-13th May Examination Week

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