

SEMESTER: FALL 2022
COURSE TITLE: Care of our Common Home
COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: THST 3998-04/CATH 3998-04
TIMES/DAYS: MW 9:55 AM – 11:35 AM
INSTRUCTOR: Cecilia González-Andrieu, PhD.
CORE AREA: INT: Faith & Reason
FLAGGED: N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

In 2015, Pope Francis addressed an Encyclical to the world titled *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home*. This document, the fruit of lengthy consultation with climatologists, economists, scientists and theologians from the world's major religions begins by expressing praise as the result of human gratitude when encountering wonder. A substantial document of over 80 pages, *Laudato Si* repeatedly speaks about beauty and wonderment, pointing theologians to its best interpretive tool: an engaged and liberative theological cosmology based on the unity of aesthetics and ethics. Spurred by the encyclical we explore the questions posed by the climate crisis in light of the Christian tradition. Using a five-step methodology developed from theological aesthetics, Liberation and Feminist theologies and Ignatian spirituality, we journey through the course by studying, experiencing, and dreaming up, creative ways to extend the encyclical's vision of Creation to our context so it may ably serve our communities of accountability.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students successfully engaged in this course will: a) Know the central contours of theological methodology incorporating multiple strands into a five -step process. b) Know and develop proficiency in engaging complex texts in environmentalism, ecological harm, theological cosmology and eco-theology. c) Be able to write well and present their findings orally. d) Be able to actively engage and reflect upon the complex work of wrestling with an ancient religious tradition as it engages robustly with urgent current issues. e) Extend their critical engagement with theological questions through the production of original theological thought in academic writing, participant observation and multimedia presentations.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

This is an upper division course and recommended for students with junior or senior standing.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Pope Francis, *On Care for our Common Home, Laudato Si*. Available online from the Vatican. Those who have Spanish proficiency are encouraged to read the Spanish text.
2. John Muir, *Spiritual Writings*, Orbis Books, 2013. ISBN: 978-1-62698-035-8
3. Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, Houghton Mifflin, Anniversary Edition, 2002, 978-0618249060.
4. Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ. *Creation and the Cross: The Mercy of God for a Planet in Peril*, Orbis Books. ISBN: 978-1626983090
5. Alejandro García-Rivera, *The Garden of God: A Theological Cosmology*, Fortress Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-8006-6358-2
6. Other readings and materials will be made available through BRIGHTSPACE.

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

1. Reading: All assigned readings are due prior to the class meeting.
2. Participation: In class discussions, presentations and processes, engaged field work outside of class with a non-profit organization involved in ecological justice.
3. Writing and presentations: Participation in discussion board, several short papers, oral presentations, field work and midterm multimedia report and a final research paper/project/presentation.