

CATH 2000 L01 Special Topics in Catholic Studies: Catholicism and the Ecological Crisis

Instructor:

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Office hours are posted on my door. Also, we can arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Course Time & Location:

Regular Session, 2006-2007: FIRST TERM, Room 258, St. Paul's College:

CATH 2000 Section L01: 7 September – 30 November, 2006 (Thursdays 7pm-10pm).

<p style="text-align: center;">Catholic Studies Web Site</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/catholic_studies</p>

Course Description:

CATH 2000 L01 is a seminar-based exploration of the interplay between the Catholic tradition and the ecological crisis. An inter-disciplinary approach will be taken to evaluate issues of complicity, responsibility, guilt and reconciliation with regard the Catholicism's interaction with the natural world.

<p>The child awakens to a universe. The mind of the child to a world of meaning. Imagination to a world of beauty. Emotions to a world of intimacy.</p>

<p>It takes a universe to make a child both in outer form and inner spirit. It takes a universe to educate a child. A universe to fulfill a child.</p>
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<p>-Poem by Thomas Berry</p>

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Course Materials:

(a) Books:

- 1) Berry, Thomas. 1990. *The Dream of the Earth*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books.
 - 2) Herriot, Trevor. 2004. *Jacob's Wound: A Search for the Spirit of the Wilderness*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Ltd.
- (Available in the Bookstore). Students are encouraged to buy these books as soon as possible.

(b) Readings: Many of the readings for the first part of the course will be distributed to students at during class. Students will be asked to contribute towards photocopying costs.

(c) Materials From the Internet: In order to save the students money, documents which are commonly available on the world wide web were not included in the course reading pack. Students will be expected to download these documents in preparation for selected seminars. Students will note that there is an open area computing facility with internet access and free printing located in Room 131, St. Paul's College. In the spirit of the course, students are encouraged to reduce paper consumption. Therefore, if available to an individual, 1) two-sided printing is encouraged and 2) laptops (with the readings saved in electric form) are welcome at the seminars.

Student Requirements:

1. Read the assigned readings
2. Attendance and active participation. Attendance will be taken.
3. The completion of three commentaries on the assigned readings.
- 4 Major Research Paper.

Commentaries on the assigned readings

Throughout the course of the term students are required to submit three commentaries on the assigned readings. These commentaries are due at the beginning of the seminar for which the concerned readings were assigned. The goal of these commentaries will not be to merely summarize the selected readings. Rather, students should make an effort to have their writing demonstrate an interaction with the readings. Students are giving broad scope to produce these commentaries, they should, however, remember to ground any form of analysis, evaluation or conclusion firmly in the selected readings.

Each commentary is to be 3 pages in length.

Each commentary should be proofread thoroughly before being submitted to the instructor

Opinions expressed must be supported by information obtained from your research.

Sources used must be properly cited and not passed off as your own writing.

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Major Research Paper

As the seminars progress it is expected that students will encounter topics of particular interest to themselves. When student discern an issue which both (1) falls within the scope of this course and (2) is of particular interest to themselves, then they are encourage to form that issue into an acceptable topic for major research paper. Students must have their essay topics approved by the instructor. This approval will follow a brief meeting with the instructor in which the student explains to him (1) what the nature of their chosen topic and (2) the method they propose to follow to research and write about their chosen area. It is anticipated that this meeting should take place during week 12 of the course at the absolute latest. Students struggling to find a topic are encouraged to meet with instructor well in advance of the due date.

The paper is to be 12-15 pages in length.
The paper should be proofread thoroughly before being shown to the instructor
Opinions expressed must be supported by information obtained from your research.
Sources used must be properly cited and not passed off as your own writing.

THE PAPER IS DUE DECEMBER 7, 2006.

Students may exercise an option to hand in their papers at least one week before the due date for feedback as to content and style so as to provide an opportunity for revision before handing in their final copy.

Except with prior permission of the instructor, or in the case of documented illness or some other such serious reason, a paper handed in after the due date will have one point deducted for each day it is late.

Evaluation:

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1. Active participation during and proper preparation for seminars.....30%.
 2. Commentaries on the readings.....3X10%.
 3. Major research paper.....40%.

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The following grading scheme (based on the ‘Letter Grade System’ on page xx of *University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar: 2006-2007*) will be used in the course (Final Grades are subject to Faculty of Arts Review):

95-100	A+	4.5	Exceptional	65-70	C+	2.5	Satisfactory
86-94	A	4.0	Excellent	56-64	C	2.0	Adequate
80-85	B+	3.5	Very Good	50-55	D	1.0	Marginal
71-79	B	3.0	Good	0-49	F	0.0	Failure

Incomplete Term Work: See page xxx of *University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar: 2006-2007* for the regulations (4.1.2). Note that you must “apply to the instructor prior to the end of lectures for an incomplete grade and time extension for work completion.”

Academic Integrity: Acquaint yourself with the University’s policy on *Plagiarism and Cheating* (7.1) on p. xxx of the *University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar: 2006-2007*.

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1—COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

- a) Course expectations – review and explanation of information in the course outline.
- b) Introductory lecture – What is the ecological crisis.
- c) Assigned reading – Selections from Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*. Students will also be sent an e-mail message an active link to Lynn White’s Article “Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis”.

WEEK 2—THE NATURE OF THE CRISIS: RACHEL CARSON AND LYNN WHITE

- a) Seminar
- b) Assigned reading for week 3- Leopold, A., “The Land Ethic” in LaFollette, E.H. (ed.), *Ethics in Practice: An Anthology*, Oxford, Blackwell, 1997, pp. 634-643 **and** Soskice, J.M., “Creation and Relation” in Gill, R. (ed.) *Readings in Modern Theology: Britain and America*, Nashville: Abington Press, 1995, pp.58-66.

WEEK 3—ECOLOGICAL ETHICS: ALDO LEOPOLD AND JANET MARTIN SOSKICE

- a) Seminar
- b) Assigned reading for week 4- Haught, J.F., “Christianity and Ecology” in Gottlieb, R.S. (ed.), *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, Environment*, New York, Routledge, 1996, pp.270-85.

WEEK 4—ECO-THEOLOGY: JOHN HAUGHT AND THE ESCHATOLOGICAL IMPERATIVE

- a) Seminar
- b) Assigned reading for week 5- Chapters 1-8 in Berry, Thomas.1990. *The Dream of the Earth*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books.

WEEK 5—ECO-THEOLOGY: THOMAS BERRY 1, THE DREAM OF THE EARTH

- a) Seminar
- b) Assigned reading for week 6- Chapters 9-16 in Berry, Thomas.1990. *The Dream of the Earth*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books.

WEEK 6—ECO-THEOLOGY: THOMAS BERRY 2, EXISTENTIAL IMPERATIVE FOR THE ECOZOIC AGE

- a) Seminar

b) Assigned reading for week 7- Students will be sent an e-mail message with active links to readings for the next seminar.

WEEK 7—CATHOLIC HOLY ORDERS AND MODEL COMMUNITIES

a) Seminar

b) Assigned reading for week 8- Herriot, Trevor. 2004. *Jacob's Wound: A Search for the Spirit of the Wilderness*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Ltd.

WEEK 8—ECOZOIC CATHOLIC LITERATURE: TREVOR HERRIOT

a) Seminar

b) Assigned reading for week 9- Students will be sent an e-mail message with active links to the readings for the next seminar.

WEEK 9—CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: PAPAL TEACHING

a) Seminar

b) Assigned reading for week 10- Students will be sent an e-mail message with active links to the readings for the next seminar.

WEEK 10— CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: THE BISHOPS OF THE UNITED STATES

a) Seminar

b) Assigned reading for week 11- Students will be sent an e-mail message with active links to the readings for the next seminar.

WEEK 11— CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: THE BISHOPS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

a) Seminar

b) Assigned reading for week 12-Students will be sent an e-mail message with current links to the readings for the next seminar.

WEEK 12— CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: THE CANADIAN BISHOPS

a) Seminar

b) Assigned reading-Selections from John Macmurray's lectures *Persons in Relation*.

WEEK 13—INTEGRATION SEMINAR: CRISIS OF RELATION? CRISIS OF COMMUNITY?

a) Seminar

b) Review of expectations for major paper.

Selected New Arrivals in the St. Paul's Library

Bouma-Prediger. 2003. *For the Beauty of the Earth: A Christian Vision for Creation Care*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic.

Hessel, Dieter and Ramussen, eds. 2001. *Earth Habitat: Eco-Injustice and the Church's Response*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.

Hill, Brennan R. 1998. *Christian Faith and the Environment: Making Vital Connections*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis.

Swedish, Margeret and Dennis, Marie. 2004. *The Grains of Wheat: Spirituality of Solidarity*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis.