

(CL-621) EARTH MINISTRY FOR ECOLOGICAL RENEWAL

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Office Hours: By Appointment
Class Time: Thurs, 830am - 1030am

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to orient students to emerging approaches in ecological ministry.

We will study eco-ministry in relation to matters of soul, soil, and society. We will examine the importance of self-care and ministry in the face climate anxiety, trauma, and grief; place-based approaches that focus on bioregions, practical methods for transitioning away from fossil-fuel based lifestyles; justice approaches focused on food security; and practices of direct action and the role of movement chaplains.

Besides weekly lectures and reading assignments, class time will include scripture-based eco-devotional practices, and interviews with leading practitioners in this emerging field.

Course Learning Outcomes

Students who graduate from this course will be able to:

1. Articulate the distinctives of their bioregional origins and describe how those particular socio-geographical locations inform their current dispositions toward and capacities for leadership in various ecological ministries.
2. Differentiate and evaluate place-based approaches to ecological ministry, their strengths and weaknesses, theological assumptions and contributions, and implications for leadership.
3. Analyze the place of movement-related approaches in ecological leadership, as well as the demands, requirements and opportunities for ministry in these contexts
4. Articulate a theology of leadership in various ecological ministries that connects their individual leadership profile with one particular approach studied in class, analyzing their own strengths and weaknesses, and locating the growing edge in their own emergent calling.

Required Course Texts

*All of these texts are in print. I recommend independents (Powell's, alibris, Indiebooks, Bookshop.org). Some publishers offer discounts for buying directly from them (e.g. Wipf & Stock / Cascade). Also, used books are very affordable. **Buy used books when possible!***

Choosing Life: Ecological Civilization as the World's Best Hope (Topical Line Drives Book 41). Jay McDaniel and John B Cobb. ASIN B08J6DYJQV (\$2.99 Kindle download)

Myers, Ched, ed. *Watershed Discipleship: Reinhabiting Bioregional Faith and Practice*, 2016. ISBN 978-1498280761 Cascade Books \$30.00 pb (Alibris \$21.11)

Nelson, Melissa K. *Original Instructions: Indigenous Teachings for a Sustainable Future*, 2008. ISBN 978-1591430797 \$20.00 pb (\$9.99 Kindle)

O'Brien, Kevin J. *The Violence of Climate Change: Lessons of Resistance from Nonviolent Activists*, 2017. ISBN 978-1626164352 Georgetown University Press \$24.95 (Lots of used copies)

Penniman, Leah. *Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm's Practical Guide to Liberation on the Land*, 2018. ISBN 978-1603587617 Chelsea \$34.95 (\$15.69 Better World Books)

Ray, Sarah Jaquette, *A Field Guide to Climate Anxiety*, 2017. ISBN 9780520343306 UCal Press, \$16.95 pb (Amazon \$14.77)

Recommended/Supplemental Course Texts

Dolman, Brook, et al. *Basic Relations Guide: A Citizen's Guide to Protecting and Restoring Our Watersheds* (3rd ed) 2018

Kearns, Laurel and Catherine Keller, *EcoSpirit: Religions and Philosophies for the Earth*, 2007.

Hopkins, Rob. *The Transition Handbook: From Oil Dependency to Local Resilience*, 2008

Lipsky, Laura Van Dernoot, *Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others*, 2009

McIntosh, Alastair. *Rekindling Community: Connecting People, Environment, and Spirituality*, 2015.

McIntosh, Alastair, and Carmichael, Matt. "Spirituality and Social Activism", *The Routledge International Handbook of Spirituality in Society and the Professions*, 2019.

Menaken, Resmaa. *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Bodies*, 2017

Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 2015

White, Monica M. *Freedom Farmers: Agricultural Resistance and the Black Freedom Movement*, 2018

Wylie-Kellerman, Bill. *Principalities in Particular: A Practical Theology of the Powers That Be*, 2017

Course Requirements

Class attendance and Participation (25%) - A quarter of this class, as in much of life and ministry, is showing up. Come prepared and ready to contribute, but even if you are unprepared sometimes, still come.

Online Journal (25%) - You are required to keep a semester long journal with at least one entry for each week (12 entries total). A minimum expectation of 500 words per entry / per week. This journal directly contributes to your final paper. If you keep a good journal you can then use it as a resource for your final paper and presentation. You may reflect on the content of the class, some aspect of your reading, some current issue in your own developing eco-consciousness. This is not a descriptive assignment (i.e. what happened) but a reflective and evaluative one: How did I engage with this? What impact is it having on me? What does it leave me wondering about? How is my vision for ecological ministry leadership being formed and reformed? (6000 words total by the end of the semester). Turn in a digital copy two times before the end of semester (see dates below). **Due: March 17 and April 21.**

C. Final student Presentation (25%) - a ten-minute in class presentation during our last session together. Feedback from your presentation can further improve your final paper. **Probably May 6 or 9.**

D. Final paper (25%) - Both the Final Paper and the student presentation build on the journals, but synthesize and focus your developing vision: Where am I, what have I been given, and to where and whom am I being called in ministry to this planet for the sake of God's vision? **Due May 11.**

The grading system at Garrett-Evangelical is as follows:

97-100 A+	83-86 B	70-72 C-
93-96 A	80-82 B-	67-69 D+
90-92 A-	77-79 C+	63-66 D <62 F
87-89 B+	73-76 C	

Academic Policies and Support Services

Attendance: The seminary expects that students will attend all classes, but students who miss more than 20% of the class sessions should not expect to pass the class (Academic Handbook, p. 17).

Academic Accommodations: Garrett-Evangelical is committed to providing a quality theological education and will provide reasonable accommodations for documented conditions. Students requiring specific assistance such as classroom changes, alternative ways of note-taking, different classroom procedures, or alternative testing formats are urged to request the appropriate accommodations from the director of academic studies/registrar. The director of academic studies/registrar can advise students on other support services and resources, for example, diagnostic testing. Students must complete a request for accommodations using the form available from the director of academic studies/registrar or through MyGETS documenting their condition(s) through appropriate verification methods.

Writing Support: Garrett-Evangelical offers two types of writing support: content editing and proofreading. Content editing is handled through the Writing Center, under

the direction of Dr. Diane Capitani. Contact Dr. Capitani at dianecapitani@aol.com to make an appointment. The student proofreading program is supervised by Ms. Krista McNeil, director of academic studies and registrar. Papers can be sent electronically to garrett-proofreaders@googlegroups.com and proofread using Microsoft Track Changes. Please allow at least 24 hours for documents that are 10 pages or less.

Plagiarism: Garrett-Evangelical takes the question of academic integrity and plagiarism very seriously. All professors are required to respond to all suspected incidents of academic dishonesty, especially plagiarism. Students are expected to understand and abide by the plagiarism policy (see Academic Handbook, p. 69-75).

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

1. **Feb 3 -- Introduction to EcoMinistry**
2. **Feb 10 -- Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)**
Original Instructions, Nelson et al
3. **Feb 17 -- Toward EcoCivilization**
Choosing Life!, McDaniel and Cobb

PART TWO: SOUL

4. **Feb 24 -- Person Based Ministry: Engaged Ecology & Self Care**
Field Guide to Climate Anxiety, Ray, introduction and chs. 1-2
5. **Mar 3 -- Person Based Ministry: EcoAnxiety, Grief, Trauma**
Field Guide to Climate Anxiety, Ray, chs. 3-5
6. **Mar 10 -- Person Based Ministry: EcoFaith Recovery**
Field Guide to Climate Anxiety, Ray, chs. 6-8

PART THREE: SOIL

7. **Mar 17 -- Place Based Ministry: Watershed Discipleship**
Watershed Discipleship, Myers (introd and afterword; selected chapters)

****Journals due (submit electronically)**

NO CLASS March 24 (Spring Break)

8. **March 31 -- Place-based Approaches: Transition Movement**
Guide to Transition (download)

9. **April 7-- Place-based Approaches: Food Justice Communities**
Farming While Black, Penniman, at least chs. 3,11,13

NO CLASS April 14 (Maundy Thursday)

PART FOUR: SOCIETY

10. **April 21 -- Movement Based Ministry: Climate Change is Violent**
O'Brien, chs. 1-2
****Journals due (submit electronically)**
11. **April 28 -- Movement Based Ministry: Liturgical Direct Action**
O'Brien, chs. 3-5
12. **May 6 -- Movement based Approaches: Movement Chaplaincy**
O'Brien, chs. 6-7, Conclusion
Student Presentations if necessary
12. **May 9 – (Make-up class for April 14)**
Student Presentations completed

***Final papers due
Wednesday, May 11**