

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

TITLE: The Bible & Ecological Hermeneutics

TERM: Fall 2024-2025

PROFESSOR: Daniel Frayer-Griggs

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: 3

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces approaches to biblical interpretation that have developed within the context of our current environmental crisis. We will evaluate critical arguments that implicate the Bible as a contributor to the problem and attend to more constructive readings that partner biblical scholarship with environmental ethics. Students will assess the academic merits of ecological hermeneutics and consider its potential as a resource for preaching and teaching in the life of the church.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this course students should be able to:

- Assess and evaluate claims that the Bible and Christianity have contributed negatively to our current environmental crisis.
- Articulate a basic hermeneutical theory and show understanding of how interpreters from various perspectives approach the task of interpretation.
- Discuss and evaluate competing approaches to the Bible and ecology and how these differing approaches relate to Bible study.
- Demonstrate an ability to integrate historical and theological reflection on the Bible and contemporary concerns arising from the field of environmental studies.
- Reflect pastorally on how bringing the Bible into conversation with environmental ethics might influence and enrich preaching and teaching in the Church.

PREREQUISITES:

NT110, NT120, OT110, OT120, CH110, CH120 or permission of instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

- A Bible
- Horrell, David G. *The Bible and the Environment: Towards a Critical Ecological Biblical Theology*. Routledge, 2014, ISBN: 978-1844657469, \$49.00
- Meyaard-Schaap, Kyle. *Following Jesus in a Warming World: A Christian Call to Climate Action*. IVP, 2023, ISBN: 978-1514004456, \$18.00
- Additional readings will be provided in PDF format or put on reserve in Barbour Library

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Seminar Participation (10%)

Ecological Hermeneutics Essay (25%)

Critical Reflection Essays (20%)

Final Essay (45%)

ATTENDANCE: Required.