Course Profile

Course # and Title:  
CC/RHTH 507: Future of Creation: Foundations for a Just and Sustainable World

Instructors: Dr. Gayle Woloschak with guest lecturers

Semester/Year: Spring 2018, Mondays, 6:30-9:30pm

Instructors:
Gayle Woloschak, Ph.D., Professor  
Depts of Radiation Oncology, Radiology, and Cell and Molecular Biology  
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Feinberg School of Medicine  
Northwestern University  
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Course Description:
To live faithfully in today’s world, we need to face today’s problems. At the Zygon Center for Religion and Science, we believe that community coalitions – between scientists and people of faith, between scholars of religion and leader of religious communities – are necessary to forge a better world. “The Future of Creation: Foundations for a Just and Sustainable World” addresses on key element in making a better world: developing effective, equitable, and sustainable responses to environmental degradation. Through “The Future of Creation” course, we invite you to learn, reflect, and act in response to today’s and tomorrow’s environmental crises – informed by contemporary scientific insights, guided by critical religious perspectives, formed by spiritual traditions, and trained in practical public strategies.

Offered by the Zygon Center for Religion and Science, “The Future of Creation” course is designed as a graduate-level seminary course and public lecture series. All lectures are free and open to the public. Course credit is available via registration through the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago or cross-registration through member school of the Association of Chicago Theological Schools. For more information, please visit www.zygoncenter.org, email zygoncenter@lstc.edu, or call 773-256-0670.
Outcomes (Learners will be able to): (What difference will this course make to students’ knowledge, skills, attitudes, and practices?)

1. To acquire a background on the scientific models for biological evolution, ecology, and climate change, and specifically to discuss some examples of these models;
2. To examine theological reflections on environmental crises;
3. To examine arguments that are used in climate denial;
4. To experience scientific methods and experiments; and
5. To reflect upon questions in ecology and evolutionary biology, that impact our understanding of the human person and our world.

Strategies for Learning): (How shall we go about achieving these outcomes?)

In order to achieve these outcomes we will:

1. Dialog with leading scholars of environmental science and ecology and other scientific disciplines that impinge on the area, theologians, biblical scholars, and public policy professionals.
2. Sessions with the course instructor and students will be conducted to permit a thorough examination of pastoral issues important for congregational communities.

Assessment : (How shall we know if we—students and instructors—have been successful in achieving the outcomes?)

1. Complete all readings prior to class
2. Prepare FOR THE 2ND WEEK OF CLASS a short 2-3 page reflection paper discussing your personal attitudes and prejudices about climate change prior to taking the course. (10% of grade)
3. Be prepared in class to participate in discussions, ask questions, and reflect opinions based on the topic, personal experience, and readings (20% of grade)
4. Be prepared during the final session of class to make a 15-20 min presentation on some topic from the readings or lectures that is of interest to you and your experiences in your pastorate or vocation. The student can discuss a topic that is controversial in the debate, a theme that is recurring in a pastoral community on the topic, problems that are impacted by the discussion, or some other issue related to the topic that is relevant for the student. (20% of grade)
5. A 12-15 paper due 30 days after the class that goes in depth into some topic discussed in the course. (50% of grade)

Bibliography:

CALLED INTO THE WORLD
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Text Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>ISBN# (Required)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Just Water: Theology, Ethics, and the Global Water Crisis</td>
<td>Christiana Z Peppard</td>
<td>9781626980563</td>
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<tr>
<td>EcoWomanism: African American Women and Earth-Honoring Faiths</td>
<td>Melanie L. Harris</td>
<td>9781626982017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth and Word: Classic Sermons on Saving the Planet</td>
<td>David Rhoads, ed.</td>
<td>9780826428288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EcoReformation: Grace and Hope for a Planet in Peril</td>
<td>Lisa Dahill and Jim Martin-Schramm, eds.</td>
<td>9781498225465</td>
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Additional required readings will be provided by the instructors.

Note: Course profiles provide only a preliminary snapshot of the course offered. It does not take the place of the course syllabus, which will be provided by the course instructor.