

## (CL-621) EARTH MINISTRY FOR ECOLOGICAL RENEWAL

**Instructor:** Dr. Ric Hudgens  
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**Office Hours:** By Appointment  
**Class Time:** Thurs, 10am - 12noon

### 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 issue in ministerial leadership.

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)

Curtice, Kaitlin B. *Living Resistance: An Indigenous Vision for Seeking Wholeness Every Day*, 2023. ISBN 9781587435713 (\$21.99 Baker)

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

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)

Wheatley, Margaret J. *Who Do We Choose To Be?* ISBN 20239781523004737 **SECOND EDITION (NOT THE FIRST)**. \$29 pb (\$27.85 Bookshop.org)

## **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 21 and April 18.**

**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 2 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 23.**

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 8 -- Introduction to EcoMinistry**
2. **Feb 15 -- Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)**
3. **Feb 22 -- Toward EcoCivilization**

### **PART TWO: SOUL**

4. **Feb 29 -- Person Based Ministry: Engaged Ecology & Self Care**
5. **Mar 7 -- Person Based Ministry: EcoAnxiety, Grief, Trauma**
6. **Mar 14 -- Person Based Ministry: EcoFaith Recovery**

### **PART THREE: SOIL**

7. **Mar 21 -- Place Based Ministry: Watershed Discipleship**  
**\*\*Journals due (submit electronically)**  
  
**NO CLASS March 28 (Spring Break)**
8. **April 4 -- Place-based Approaches: Transition Movement**
9. **April 11 -- Place-based Approaches: Food Justice Communities**

### **PART FOUR: SOCIETY**

10. **April 18 -- Leadership in EcoMinistry, part one**  
**\*\*Journals due (submit electronically)**
11. **April 25 -- Leadership in EcoMinistry, part two**
12. **May 2 -- Leadership in EcoMinistry, part three**  
***Student Presentations begin***
13. **May 9 -- *Student Presentations completed***

**\*Final papers due  
Wednesday, May 23**