# Syllabus CE 603, CRN 122 Ethical challenges and Laudato Si' Fall Semester 2017

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Fall Semester 2017 – Franciscan School of Theology

Monday 6:00 - 9:00 pm

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### **Course Description**

# The purpose of this course

- To examine some of the major ethical challenges in our society
  - from the perspective of Catholic social teaching (CST)
  - and the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition.
- More specifically, the course will be focused on the encyclical Laudato Si,
  - trying to identify its Franciscan roots
  - and its proposal for an integral ecology that encompasses all aspects of personal and social life

### Main practical objectives

- Understand the profound relationship that exists between caring for nature and being true to him/herself as a person
- To stimulate the moral imagination
- To develop the ability for critical analysis on the moral values of life in society (reflection)
- To acquire the capacity of publicly sustaining a reasonable position while being open to dialogue and pluralism (argument)
- To strengthen the sense of moral responsibility towards our common home (life)

### 1. Integral ecology and being authentic

To make of our common home a humanly positive and favorable environment

- where every person can become fully what he/she already is
- reaching his/her full human potential.
- to reflect on what everybody should do in order to being true to him/herself as an intrinsically social being.

### 2. To stimulate the moral imagination

The heart is our way of entry into the moral dimensions of existence.

- It is through the emotional experience that we are moved to start our moral reflection,
- The feelings of anguish we experience in front of a handicapped child, the anger in front injustice, for example,
  - open us to the moral dimensions of existence and already represent a preliminary phase of our moral judgment.
- We begin our rational analysis when we feel that there are important values at stake.
- That's why we aim to evoke in us empathy, attention and sensitivity to the values of human experience

### 3. To develop the ability for critical analysis

### The emotional response

- is not yet an articulated moral judgment, but reflects what we consider as morally relevant.
- It will therefore be necessary
  - to identify the elements present in that response that somehow reflect the moral dimensions of our experience
  - to clarify the values and beliefs that determine our way of living in society.
  - to articulate clearly what we consider morally important and then to evaluate it in light of the wider Christian moral tradition

### 4. Publicly sustaining a reasonable position

The field of ethics is today very open to debate:

- many different and contrasting positions.
- While we must strive to be very precise and coherent in our way of reasoning, we must also learn to be receptive towards legitimate differences, viewpoints and methods.

Instead of immediately labeling an opinion as negative,

- we will try to develop the capacity for dialogue and understanding,
- We will try to explore strategies to publicly support a reasonable position.
- CST: to be assumed after a serious reflection

## 5. To strengthen the sense of moral responsibility (life)

### The study of Laudato Si'

should not be reduced to a theoretical debate on what a person "should" o shouldn't do with nature,

It must also have a tangible influence on our practical behavior.

## Our study of moral theology

Should move us to put into practice what we perceived as good.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

#### Students will be expected

- To identify the Franciscan roots of the encyclical Laudato SI and the specificity of the CST approach to human relationship with nature and social life.
- To become more conscious of the strong bonds of kinship that link us with the rest of nature and the absurdity of a strong anthropocentrism.
- To be aware of the need of promoting an integral development in all its human, cultural, educational, and social dimensions.
- To be familiar with the major values, principles, and themes which recur in the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition and be able to apply them today.
- To *heighten* their awareness about the causes of the current socio-environmental crisis and the need to overcome the technocratic paradigm.

### 2 Required Texts:

- 1. Carbajo Núñez M., Sister Mother Earth. Franciscan Roots of the Laudato Si', Tau Publishing, Phoenix (AZ) 2017, (hereafter: MCN)
- 2. Delio I. K.D. Warner P. Wood, Care for Creation. A Franciscan spirituality of the earth, Franciscan media, Cincinnati 2007, (hereafter: CoC)
- 3. Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church (Available online hereafter: CSDC)

#### **Before the class**

### **Expectations**

The week before, a student will be assigned as leader to start the discussion for each document/commentary with a five-minute presentation.

Students will be required to read both primary sources and secondary texts, which will be the focus of discussions in the class.

#### Students will come to class:

- having read all the material assigned
- having submitted a half a page written reflection on one of the required readings.
- Those materials indicated as "other possible readings" are recommended, but not required.

### Class Format:

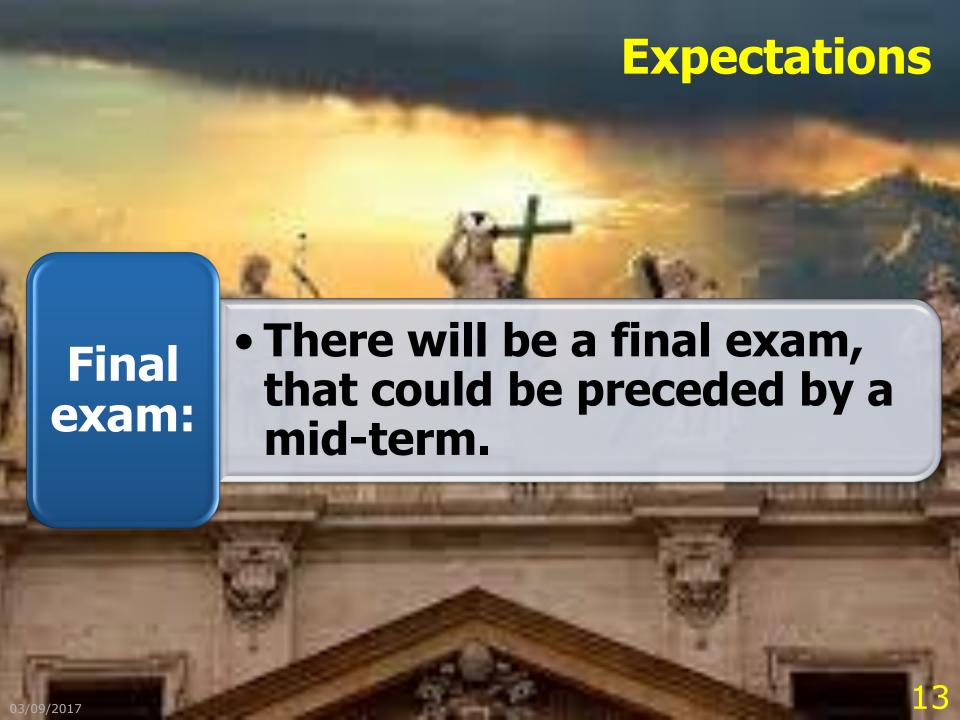
### **Expectations**

#### **Every lesson will have two different sections:**

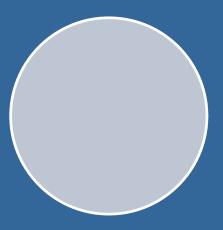
- the first will focus on the book MCN which will be the text of reference during the whole course;
- the second will deal with related aspects of the integral ecology proposed by the encyclical Laudato Si' and with important topics of the CST.

Consistently thoughtful and active participation in class is essential to the success of this course. Attendance is only a precondition for participation, not the measure of it.

Students are expected to provide well-reasoned contributions to class discussions and be prepared to raise questions in response to the readings



### **Expectations**



### Weekly Assignments and written reflection

 You should not attempt to cover everything, but simply make one or two points that clarify some aspect of the reading and stimulate thought.

#### You can follow these steps outlined by Richard Gula:

A)

Identify the subject of the reading (just one brief sentence)

### B) Critical Reflection:

- 2) How does this article/unit affirm your present understanding of the topic. *In this article I relearned that ...*
- 3) What new insight(s) did you gain from this article/unit? I was surprised to learn that ...
- 4) What questions does this article raise for you? I need to think more about ...

### C) Appropriation:

- 5) Share an anecdote from your life that illustrates your experience with the insights of this article/unit. *I* remember when ...
- 6) What would it be like to incorporate the insights from this unit to how I think and live? If I act upon these insights ...

# Components of the Class (Evaluation procedure)

- Participation 30%
- Weekly Assignments
   35%
- Final exam 35%

### **Grading Scale**

- A 100-95%
- A- 94-91%
- B+ 90-88%
- B 87-80%

### **September 11:**

### Lesson online:

- The Spirit of Assisi: Dialogue to face the current ethical challenges
- See this video: <a href="https://youtu.be/xZqGVLDiKYc">https://youtu.be/xZqGVLDiKYc</a> (50 minutes)

## Text with footnotes (see)

Powerpoint presentation (see)

#### Read:

- LS n. 163-201 (Lines of approach and action: **dialogue**)
- MCN 120-121, 158-167
- John Paul II, "Pace con Dio creatore, pace con tutto il creato", XXIII Giornata Mondiale della Pace 1990.
- Benedict XVI, "Message to Bishop Domenico Sorrentino on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the interreligious meeting of prayer for peace", 2-09-2006, in AAS 98 (2006) 749-754.

- 1. Clarification of concepts: ethics, morals, CST and Moral Theology, Vatican II orientations, CST major docs, etc.
- 2. Christian anthropology vs other ways of seeing the human being (part 1)

### September 18

R

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d:

- CSDC n. 60-86.
- Second Vatican Council: GS 10, 22, 45; OT 16
- Catechism (CCC): 50-114, 131-133, 1691-1748, 2052-2063, 2083-2087, 2090-2093
  - Other possible readings (optional):
    - Osborne Kenan B., "A Scotistic foundation for <u>Christian spirituality</u>", in *Franciscan Studies* 64 (2006) 363-405.
    - Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (On the condition of labor)
    - Shannon, Thomas A., Rerum novarum, (MCST 127 150

- 1. Christian anthropology vs other ways of seeing the human being (part 2)
- 2. Ecology and environmental ethics

### September 25

### R

e

a

d:

- LS n. 1-16
- MCN 8-21
- CDSC 451-460 (Safeguarding the environment)
- "Criteria for a Christian ethic of sustainability", in CBC\_Germany, Climate Change: A Focal Point of Global, Intergenerational and Ecological Justice, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2007, pages 32-40.
- USCCB, Quotes from Church teaching on ecology; Pastoral Aids
- Other readings (optional):
  - Bacon, Francis, <u>The Great Instauration of Human Control in the</u> Universe
  - Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et Spes (The Church in the Modern World)
  - Hollenbach, David, *Gaudium et Spes* (*MCST* 266 291).

- 1. CST guiding principles: Human dignity and the Common good
- 2. The problem of sustainability

### October 2

R

e

a

d:

- LS n. 17-61 (What is happening to our common home)
- MCN p. 21-30
- "Antropogenic climate change", in CBC\_Germany, <u>Climate Change: A Focal Point of Global,</u> <u>Intergenerational and Ecological Justice</u>, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2007, pages 11-31
- Other readings (optional):
  - CBC\_New\_Zealand, "Statement on environmental issues", Sep 1, 2006 (2 pages).
  - CBC\_Australia, "A new Earth", 2002 (13 pages).

- 1. A self-sufficient freedom
- 2. Human rights as an ethical peace project

### October 9

### R

e

a

d:

- LS n. 101-114 (Technology & technocratic paradigm)
- MCN 30-39.
- CDSC 461-465 (The crisis in the relationship between man and the environment)
- USCCB, Global climate change 2016 (Global climate change, 2001; Letter to Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State feb 17, 2017)
- Other readings (optional):
  - CBC\_Southern African, On the Environmental Crisis, Sept 5, 1999 (4 pages).
  - CBC\_Philippines, What is happening to our beautiful land, Jan. 29, 1988 (8 pages).
  - Encyclical Pacem in terris, (Peace on Earth)
  - Christiansen, Drew, Pacem in terris (MCST 217-243).

- 1. Freedom in St. Francis and the Franciscan Tradition
- 2. Peace: How to be builders of peace; war, violence, death penalty: a moral assessment

### October 23

R

e

a

d:

- LS n. 63-100 (the Gospel of creation)
- MCN 116, 122-137
- CoC 19-64 (Creation and Incarnation)
- Other readings (optional):
  - Edwards, Denis, "Ecological theology: Trinitarian perspectives", in *Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA) proceedings* 72 (2017) 14-28.
  - Encyclical *Pacem in terris*, (Peace on Earth)
  - Christiansen, Drew, Pacem in terris (MCST 217-243).

- 1. Gratuitousness excluded or ignored
- 2. War, "Just war", Death penalty

### October 30

R

e

a

d:

- LS n. 115-136 (Modern anthropocentrism)
- MCN 40-46.
- King, Nicholas, «Laudato Si'. A Biblical angle», in The Way 54/4 (2015) 23-31.
- Damonte, Marco, "God, the Bible and the environment. An historical excursus on the relationship between Christian religion and ecology, in *Relations* 5.1 (2017) 27-45.
- Other readings (optional):
  - USCCB, "LS discussion guide"; LS on page summary; Briefing.

- 1. The logic of gift in St. Francis and the Franciscan Tradition
- 2. Social justice

### November 6

### R

e

a

d:

- MCN 116-118, 138-145.
- Doyle, Eric, "Ecology and the Canticle of Brother Sun", in New Blackfriars 55/652 (1974) 392-402.
- Speelman, Willem M., "A song in the dark. Francis of Assisi's Canticle of Brother Sun", in *Perichoresis* 14/2 (2016) 53-66.
- Other readings (optional):
  - CBC\_Canada. "You Love All that Exists... All Things are Yours, God, Lover of Life", October 4, 2013.
  - Scott, Margaret, "Greening the vows. *Laudato Si'* and religious life", in *The Way* 54/4 (2015) 83-93.
  - Brancatelli, Robert, "Laudato Si' and a spirituality of resiliency", in Journal of Management for Global Sustainability (2016) 1-14.
  - Encyclical *Populorum progressio* (On the development of Peoples)
  - Deck, Allan F. *Populorum progressio* (*MCST* 292-314).

- 1. Instrumental relationships
- 2. Dignity of work and workers

### November 13

R

e

a

d:

- LS n. 137-155 (Integral ecology)
- MCN 46-51
- Chryssavgis, John, "Pope Francis' Laudato SI A personal response, an ecumenical reflection" in Phronema 32/2 (2016) 17-21.
- Other readings (optional):
  - Edwards, Denis, "Earth as God's creation. The theology of the natural world in Pope Francis' Laudato Si", in Phronema 31/2 (2016) 1-16.
  - Encyclical *Laborem exercens* (On human work)
  - Lamoureux, Patricia A., *Laborem exercens* (*MCST* 389 414).

- 1. Fraternity in St. Francis and the Franciscan tradition
- 2. Private property

### November 20

### R

e

a

d:

- MCN 119-120, 146-158.
- CoC 65-108 (Creation as family)
- Other readings (optional):
  - Bals, Christoph, A successful provocation for a pluralistic global society, Bonn 2016, p. 43-59 (Paradigm shift from rulers of the environment to partaking universal fraternity)
  - Encyclical *Centesimus annus*, (The hundredth year)
  - Finn, Daniel (*MCST* 436-466).

- 1. Total good instead of common good
- 2. Faith & Politics: The role of religion in the public realm

### November 27

### R

e

a

d:

- LS n. 156-162
- MCN 51-58
- CDSC 466- 485 (The environment, a collective good)
- Delio, Ilia, "Evangelical life today living in the ecological Christ", in Franciscan Studies 64 (2006) 475-506.
- Other readings (optional):
  - Austriaco, Nicanor P.G., "Bioethics in Laudato Si. The ecological law as a moral principle", in National Catholic Bioethics Quarterly 15/4 (2015) 657–663 (the natural moral law reimagined as an ecological moral law)
  - Encyclical Sollicitudo rei socialis, (On social concern)
  - Curran, Charles E. Himes, Kenneth R., *Sollicitudo rei socialis* (*MCST* 415-435).

- 1. Spirituality and ecological conversion in the light of the *Laudato Si'*
- 2. Economic justice & the Preferential Option for the Poor

### December 4

### R

e

a

d:

- LS n. 216-246
- MCN 178-211
- CoC 109-142 (Creation and contemplation)
- Other readings (optional):
  - CDSC n. 486-487
  - Kim, Yeongseon, "St. Francis of Assisi and ecological conversion", in Catholic Theology and Thought 78 (2017) 47-86
  - Encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (Charity in Truth)

- 1. The common good in St. Francis and the Franciscan Tradition
- 2. Caring together for the common good

### December 11

R

e

a

d:

- LS n. 202-215
- MCN 211-224
- CoC 155-199 (Creation and conversion)
- Benedict XVI, "Se vuoi coltivare la pace, custodisci il creato", XLIII Giornata Mondiale della Pace 2010.
- Other readings (optional):
  - Warner, Keith, "Franciscan environmental ethics. Imagining creation as a community of care", in Journal of the Society of Christian Ethics 31/1 (2011) 143-160.

### **Bibliografia**

- Delarun, Jacques, The Canticle of Brother Sun: Francis of Assisi reconciled, Franciscan Institute pub., St. Bonaventure 2016.
- Hathaway, Mark Boff, Leonardo, The Tao of liberation: Exploring the ecology of transformation, Orbis, Maryknoll NY 2009.
- Himes, Kenneth R., ed., Modern Catholic Social Teaching. Commentaries & interpretations, Georgetown Univ. Press, Washington DC 2005 [=MCST].
- Jenkins Willis, *Ecologies of Grace*. *Environmental ethics and Christian theology*, Oxford UP, Oxford 2008.

### **Bibliography**

- Kelli, Anthony J., Laudato Si': An integral ecology and the Catholic vision, ATF, Adelaide 2016.
- Parrey, M.L., ed., Climate change 2007: impacts, adaptation and vulnerability, WMO, Cambridge 2007.
- Taylor, Paul W., Respect for Nature: a theory of environmental ethics, Princeton UP, Princeton NJ 2011.
- Zimmerman, Michael E., ed., Environmental philosophy: from animal rights to radical ecology, Pearson, Upper Saddle River 42005.

### Bishops' conferences on Ecology (quoted in LS):

- CBC\_Southern African, On the Environmental Crisis, Sept 5, 1999.
- CBC\_Latin American and Caribbean Bishops,
   Aparecida Document, 29 June 2007, n. 83-87.
- CBC\_Philippines, What is happening to our beautiful land, Jan. 29, 1988.
- CBC\_Bolivia, "Pastoral Letter on: El universo, don de Dios para la vida", March 23, 2012.
- CBC\_Canada. "You Love All that Exists... All Things are Yours, God, Lover of Life", October 4, 2003.
- CBC\_Japan, "Reverence for life", Jan 1, 2001.

### Bishops' conferences on Ecology (quoted in LS):

- CBC\_RepDominicana, "Nuestra casa común", June 5, 2017.
- CBC\_New\_Zealand, "Statement on environmental issues", Sep 1, 2006.
- CBC\_Australia, "A new Earth", 2002.
- CBC\_Argentina, "Una tierra para todos", 2005.
- CBC\_Portugal, "Responsabilidade solidária pelo bem comum", 2003.
- CBC\_Mexico, "Jesucristo, vida y esperanza de los indígenas y campesinos", 2008.

### Web page

The syllabus and other materials will be available also at

www.antoniano.org

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02/09/2017

