

PRTH 80970: Pastoral Practice in a Time of Climate Crisis
3 Semester Hours

Instructor: Timothy Robinson

Prerequisites: Admittance to the Doctor of Ministry Program or permission of the instructor

Description of Content:

Climate change—or climate chaos—has been called an “existential crisis” for humanity. Eco-theologian Willis Jenkins has stated that the “environmental crisis forms a new global dimension of religious experience.” Yet, “creation,” the Earth and the bio-physical systems upon which all of life depends has, until recently, never been at the center of either theological reflection or pastoral practice. As the scope and scale of climate crisis becomes ever clearer, and evidence of its toll on human communities, the human psyche, and the human spirit mounts (eco-anxiety, climate-related trauma, and the material impacts of environmental racism and eco-colonialism), this course considers what placing our planetary crisis at the heart of pastoral inquiry and care might look like.

Class Procedures:

This class will be conducted entirely online in both synchronous and asynchronous modes. In addition to doing asynchronous work and occasional Zoom gatherings throughout the semester, students should prepare to meet for 2 intensive days during the week of October 10-14 (4-6 hours per day) via Zoom. Attendance on these days is absolutely required. Class procedures will include viewing pre-recorded materials online, completing reading assignments, participation in discussion boards, and meeting periodically for discussion, processing, engagement with guests, etc.

Requirements:

1. Attendance at all synchronous sessions 25%
2. Timely participation in discussion boards 35%
3. 2 Research essays (10-12 pages each) 40%

Texts:

1. Norman Wirzba, *This Sacred Life: Humanity's Place in a Wounded World* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), ISBN: 978-1009012584, \$28.99
2. Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Hilda P. Koster, eds., *Planetary Solidarity: Global Women's Voices on Christian Doctrine and Climate Justice* (Fortress, 2017). ISBN: 978-1-5064-3262-5, \$39.00
3. Jennifer Ayres, *Inhabitanace: Ecological Religious Education* (Baylor University Press, 2019), ISBN: 978-1481311373, \$39.99

4. Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants* (Milkweed Editions, 2013): ISBN: 978-1571313560, \$18.00
5. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katherine K. Wilkinson, eds., *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis* (One World, 2020) ISBN: 978-0593237083, \$18.00
6. Resmaa Menakem, *My Grandmother's Hands: Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending our Hearts and Bodies* (Penguin, 2017), ISBN: 978-0141996479, \$14.34
7. Other readings as assigned