



CHTH 224/324

Theology & the Environment

Distance/Campus Course Description

Lecturer: Dr Andrew Shepherd

Brief Introduction to the Paper

In an era of climate change, sea-level rise, species extinction, and the widespread destruction of natural habitats, environmental ethics is an urgent global concern. Engaging with biblical, historical and contemporary theologies of nature, this paper explores the resources available within the Christian tradition for shaping a contemporary ecological ethic.

Assessment

This paper is fully internally assessed. There is no examination.

CHTH 224:

- **Participation in Online Written Discussions – 20%**
(1200-1500 words spread over four on-line discussion-posts)
- **Essay #1 – 30%**
(1750 words)
- **Essay #2 – 50%**
(2500 words)

CHTH 324:

- **Participation in Online Written Discussions – 20%**
(1200-1500 words spread over four on-line discussion-posts)
- **Essay #1 – 30%**
(2000 words)
- **Essay #2 – 50%**
(3000 words)

Teaching schedule

The course is taught synchronously, with **campus and distance students** participating together in 13 weekly **2-hour classes**. A series of evening tutorials (optional attendance) will also be offered during the semester.

Timetable details are available at <https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/> (See the hyperlinks under “Timetables”, on the right-hand side)

Learning Outcomes

Students completing CHTH 224 should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the key elements of ecological theologies.
2. Outline and critically evaluate a range of ethical approaches to human relationships within nature.
3. Describe the significance of virtues and practices within the development of a contemporary Christian ecological ethic.
4. Offer critical theological/ethical reflection upon the ecological impact of human patterns of consumption.

In addition to the above, CHTH 324 students will be able to:

5. Offer a critical evaluation of the ecological merit of one ecological theologian/ethicist.

For more information

Please direct any administrative enquiries to the Theology Administrator:

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