

## Environmental Law and Social Love (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Theological Studies of Culture and Society)

Course ID: 0367

### Admission requirements

General admission requirements for university studies. Students taking part in the course as a part of their Bachelor's degree program must have completed Course A, Introduction in Philosophy and Theology (30 ECTS credits). Students taking part in the course as a freestanding course are expected to have corresponding prior knowledge.

### Educational goals

After having completed the course, the students are expected to:

- Understand the role of law in addressing environmental issues.
- Show a critical understanding of the potential value of law in protecting the environment, and be able to recognise its possible limitations.
- Connect the purpose of legal regulations with the Christian idea of responsible ecological stewardship.
- Connect and explain the relationship between reliance on the legal regime for environmental protection and the need for personal conversion.
- Explain the concept of “social love” found in the *Laudato Si'* and the Catholic tradition.
- Apply the concept of “social love” to the legal context of the national and international community.

### Course content

Environmental law constitutes a rich set of norms both at the national and international levels. However, its complexity also enables large-scale international conflicts. The question is whether it is possible to look at environmental law from another perspective and propose a vision based on the ideal of social love. Based on biblical tradition, this course will attempt to anchor this vision by intimately linking the care for humanity and legal obligations.

### Teaching and examination

The course is taught in English. Teaching is given through lectures and discussion seminars in Uppsala. Students are expected to participate in class (10% of final mark), write one short assignment on a topic occurring during the course (20% of final mark) and take a written home exam at the end of the course (70% of final mark).

## **Bibliography**

Cichos, K., Sobkowiak, J.A., Sadowski, R.F., Zbarachewicz, B., Zenderowski, R., & Dziekoński, S. (Eds.). (2020). *Sustainable Development Goals and the Catholic Church: Catholic Social Teaching and the UN's Agenda 2030* (1st ed.). Routledge.

Lucia A. Silecchia, Conflicts and Laudato Si': Ten Principles for Environmental Dispute Resolution, in *Journal of Land Use & Environmental Law*, Vol. 33, No. 1, 2017.

Pope Francis, (2015). *Praise be to You. Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press.

Additional reading:

Woodeene Koenig-Bricker, *Ten Commandments for the Environment. Pope Benedict XVI Speaks Out for Creations and Justice*, Ave Maria Press, 2009.

See also "Kursplaner: allmänna bestämmelser" (Course plans: General rules)

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