

# Biology, Ecology and Theological Anthropology (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Systematic Theology) and PHILOSOPHY

Course ID: 0380

## 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:

- Be able to give an account of central themes in theological anthropology, ecology and biology.
- Show an understanding of how these three areas are related, and how positions within these fields are mutually interrelated, especially regarding the concepts of human agency and human dependence.
- Show an ability to both discuss and independently evaluate claims within these fields and how to integrate them, including being able to critically evaluate how positions within one field can either find resonance or stand in conflict with positions within the other two fields.

## Course content

This course reflects theologically and philosophically on the issues of human dependence and agency in the biological world. Many organisms shape their environment, but the degree to which humans do so is unparalleled in the biological world, as our environmental crisis makes clear. How did the uniquely human forms of “niche construction” evolve? What does an evolutionary informed, as well as ecologically responsible, theological anthropology look like?

## Teaching and examination

The teaching consists in lectures and seminars. Oral presentations or shorter papers in connection with the seminars can occur as part of the teaching. Examination is in the form of two shorter papers during the course (2–4 pages each) and a longer paper at the end of the course (5–7 pages). The course grade is based on the final paper.

## **Bibliography**

- Briola, Lucas, *The Eucharistic Vision of Laudato Si'. Praise, Conversion, and Integral Ecology*, The Catholic University of America Press, 2023. 288 pp.
- Crysdale, Cynthia and Neil Ormerod, *Creator God, Evolving World*, Fortress Press, 2013. 184 pp.
- Peterson, Michael L. & Dennis R. Venema, *Biology, Religion, and Philosophy*, Cambridge University Press, 2021. 284 pp.

## Reference literature:

- Deane-Drummond, Celia and Agustín Fuentes (eds.), *Theology and Evolutionary Anthropology. Dialogues in Wisdom, Humility, and Grace*, Routledge, 2020. 278 pp.
- Hall, Douglas J., *Imaging God: Dominion as Stewardship*, Wipf and Stock, 2004. 256 pp.
- Herdt, Jennifer A., *Assuming Responsibility. Ecstatic Eudaimonism and the Call to Live Well*, Oxford University Press, 2022. 288 pp.
- McKirland, Christa L., *God's Provision, Humanity's Need: The Gift of our Dependence*, Baker Academic, 2022. 184 pp.
- Rappaport, Roy A., *Ecology, Meaning, and Religion*, second edition, North Atlantic Books, 1993. 272 pp.

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

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Valid as 2023-10-15