

Planetary Boundaries and Integral Ecology (7,5 ECTS credits)

Level: 1st cycle

Discipline: THEOLOGY (Theological Studies in Culture and Society)

Course ID: 0385

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 concept of planetary boundaries within the broader discussion on the Anthropocene.
- Be able to explain the planet's current situation in relation to planetary boundaries from the point of view of current science.
- Comprehend the concept of human development as understood in *Laudato Si'* and other relevant encyclicals.
- Connect the view of *Laudato Si'* on sustainable and integral development to reasonable limits and planetary boundaries.
- Be able to explain and critically reflect on the value and potential found in theology and religious teachings to society in staying within the planetary boundaries.

Course content

The concept of planetary boundaries, within the broader discussion on the Anthropocene, aims to define the environmental limits within which humanity can safely operate. Facing these limits, Catholic social teaching guides sustainable development principles by favouring both human and natural environments. Thus, this course will analyse the interrelation of the concept of integral ecology with the broader framework of planetary boundaries.

Teaching and examination

Teaching is given through lectures and discussion seminars. Students are expected to participate in class (10% of final mark), take a written home exam at the end of the course (70% of final mark) and present orally on a reading assigned during the class (20%).

Bibliography

Pope Paul VI, Pastoral constitution on the Church in the modern world *GAUDIUM ET SPES*, Acta Apostolicae sedis 57 (1965). (Also available digitally through the vatican.va website.)

Pope Francis, Praise be to You. *Laudato Si'*: On Care for Our Common Home, AAS 107 (2015). (Also available digitally through the vatican.va website.)

Rockstrom, Johan and Gaffney, Owen, *Breaking Boundaries: The Science Behind Our Planet*, DK Publishing, Inbunden, 2021.

Additional articles (about 100 pages).

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

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