

Syllabus for  
**THE 455—Issues in the Doctrines of Creation and Anthropology**  
3 Credit Hours  
Semester/Year

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An analysis of the scientific, biblical, theological, historical, and ethical foundations for incorporating creation care as an integral component of a Christian worldview.

II. COURSE GOALS

This course is designed to enable students to construct a model of creation care that sees it as a vital component of living faithfully as God's people in God's world.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Discuss the scientific context of creation care.
- B. Identify and critique secular and religious conceptions of environmentalism.
- C. Discuss the biblical basis for creation care.
- D. Employ an ecological hermeneutic for reading the Bible from the perspective of creation.
- E. Discuss the theological foundations of creation care.
- F. Identify movements throughout church history, including the present, that have been involved in creation care.
- G. Identify and critique various models of environmental ethics.
- H. Discuss issues of environmental justice.
- I. Integrate the issues discussed in the course into a holistic Christian approach to creation care.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

A. Required Materials

1. Textbooks

Wilson, E. O. *The Creation: An Appeal to Save Life on Earth*. 1<sup>st</sup> repr. ed. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2007. ISBN: 978-0393330489.

2. Other

Pope Francis. *Laudato Si'*. [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

Review articles and other resources available on D2L.

B. Optional Materials

1. Textbooks  
None
2. Other  
None

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- A. University Policies and Procedures
- B. Department Policies and Procedures
- C. Course Policies and Procedures
  1. Evaluation Procedures (each assignment worth 20% of final grade)
    - a. Article reflections
    - b. Ecological hermeneutics essay
    - c. Christian environmental group presentation
    - d. Environmental justice case study essay
    - e. Final exam: creation care essay
  2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements—none

## VI. COURSE CALENDAR

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>ACTIVITY</u>
	<i>Unit 1: Scientific Foundations</i>
1	Scientific Context of Creation Care
2	Case Studies of Environmental Issues
	<i>Unit 2: Biblical Foundations</i>
3	Old Testament Teaching
4	New Testament Teaching
5	Ecological Hermeneutics
	<i>Unit 3: Theological Foundations</i>
6	Trinitarian Context of Creation Care
7	Ecological Anthropology
8	A Theological Narrative of Creation Care
	<i>Unit 4: Historical Foundations</i>
9	Historical Manifestations of Creation Care
10	Contemporary Efforts in Creation Care
	<i>Unit 5: Ethical Foundations</i>
11	Models of Environmental Ethics
12	Environmental Justice
13	Stewardship as an Ethic
	<i>Unit 6: Synthesis</i>
14	Synthesis of Scientific, Biblical, Theological, Historical, and Ethical Foundations
15	Articulating a Model of Creation Care

**Course Inventory for ORU's Student Learning Outcomes**  
**THE 455—Principles of Creation Care**  
**Semester/Year**

This course contributes to the ORU student learning outcomes as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution** – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution** – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution** – Does not address the outcome.

The Student Learning Glossary at <http://ir.oru.edu/doc/glossary.pdf> defines each outcome and each of the proficiencies/capacities.

<b>OUTCOMES &amp; Proficiencies/Capacities</b>		<b>Significant Contribution</b>	<b>Moderate Contribution</b>	<b>Minimal Contribution</b>	<b>No Contribution</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Outcome #1 – Spiritually Alive</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
1A	Biblical knowledge	X			
1B	Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit	X			
1C	Evangelistic capability		X		
1D	Ethical behavior	X			
<b>2</b>	<b>Outcome #2 – Intellectually Alert</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
2A	Critical thinking	X			
2B	Information literacy	X			
2C	Global & historical perspectives	X			
2D	Aesthetic appreciation	X			
2E	Intellectual creativity	X			
<b>3</b>	<b>Outcome #3 – Physically Disciplined</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
3A	Healthy lifestyle		X		
3B	Physically disciplined lifestyle		X		
<b>4</b>	<b>Outcome #4 – Socially Adept</b> Proficiencies/Capacities				
4A	Communication skills	X			
4B	Interpersonal skills	X			
4C	Appreciation of cultural & linguistic differences		X		
4D	Responsible citizenship	X			
4E	Leadership capacity	X			