



ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND THE CHRISTIAN PROPOSAL

Prof. Roberto Maier Theology, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore - Piacenza 8 teaching hours

Course Aims

The course aims at the confrontation between contemporary environmental ethics and the Christian vision of nature. Through the attentive reading of the Encyclical Letter *Laudato si'*, the students will also learn to critically approach Catholic moral doctrine about ecology, understanding its intentions, gains and limits in the greatest context of Christian theology.

Methodology

Lectures, analysis of texts, discussions. Students will be required to attend the course and to actively participate in the discussions.

Course Description

The course starts by providing a description of the mechanisms of the Church's Magisterium, analyzing its claim of non-reformable assertions and its possibilities of interpretation. In a second moment the students will be leaded to understand the peculiarities of the Christian position in the ecological debate. Finally, the peculiarities of the *Laudato si'* and the different reactions to the document. Eventually the students will be able to approach critically the Catholic social teaching about environmental issues, both from a Christian and from a secular point of view.

Recommended Texts

Pope Francis, Laudato si' (2015). Other readings will be suggested during the course