

**SYLLABUS
HSTY 7310
WILDERNESS AND FAITH
North Park Theological Seminary
Chicago, IL**

Spring Semester, 2013 **Three semester hours, Inter-disciplinary Elective**
May 15 (leave Chicago)—May 25 (return to Chicago)

Professors J. Bruckner, M. Clifton-Soderstrom, P. Anderson

BY APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE ONLY

Description

This offsite, experiential course, based on substantial reading and reflection, explores the theme of wilderness in relation to the Bible, Christian history, theology, and spirituality, as well as the American context of stewardship and a land ethic. Set in the Iron Range of the upper peninsula of Michigan, this May course includes a wilderness experience on the Flambeau River and local trails. The course is open to twelve students per year and is graded on a pass/fail basis.

Acceptance into the course by the instructors is based on an application essay and demographic considerations.

Required Reading

Articles listed in the seminar schedule TBD provided in an anthology.

Two books, TBD.

Requirements

1. Read the assigned material before the departure date.
2. Take brief notes on the content of each article and **write comments/questions** for our discussion. *Seminar is discussion based. Especially prepare to lead the discussion of the two articles with your name assigned in the schedule below.*
3. Prepare for and participate in all seminars and sessions.
4. Keep a journal during the experiential portion of the course. Selected excerpts from written reflections will be submitted at the end of the course.
5. Adding to the selected journal excerpts, write a concluding, integrative postscript (6-8 pages) of observations on the entire experience (i.e., reading, seminars, canoeing, solitude, etc.). **Due Friday, June 7, 2013 (deadline for credit). Please submit your paper electronically to both mclifton-soderstrom@northpark.edu and jbruckner@northpark.edu.**

SCHEDULE

Tuesday May 20: Travel to Hovland, Minn., 6am-6pm (meet in front of the NPU Library at 5:45am)

Seminars: required reading to be discussed

(Read and prepare your notes and questions **before** May 21. Not all the articles in the Anthology are required.)

Wednesday May 21

1. 9am-noon **Introduction and Bible:**

Cronon, "The Trouble with Wilderness," 69-90. (all)

Waller, "Getting Back to the Right Nature: A Reply to Cronon," 540-67.

(Staruseth)

Bible overview: Genesis 1-3; Ps 8, 19, 104, 148; Job 38-41; Is 40:12-31; Rom 8;

Col 1. (JB)

Fretheim, "Nature's Praise of God in the Psalms," 16-30. (Ross)

2. 1:30pm-4:30pm **History:**

Bouma-Prediger, "What's Wrong With the World?" 39-66. (PA)

White, "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis," 15-31. (all)

Barr, "Man and Nature," 48-75. (Ivanoff)

Macquarrie, "Creation and Environment," 32-47. (Jones)

Berry, *The Art of the Commonplace*, 219-235; 305-320. (Auger)

Evening: Hike to the Devil's Kettle on the Brule River

Thursday May 22

3. 9am-noon **Bible:**

(Bruckner on "Wilderness and the Glory of God)

Anderson, *Creation Versus Chaos*, 11-42, 171-77. (McMillan)

Habel, *The Land is Mine*, 134-58. (Staruseth)

McFague, "The Scope of the Body: the Cosmic Christ," 286-96. (Ross)

4. 1:30pm-4:30pm **Theology:**

Sittler, *Evocations of Grace* (all)

"Nature as a Theater of Grace," 1-19. [P. Bakken]

"Evangelism and the Care of the Earth," 202-206.

"Nature and Grace in Romans 8," 207-222.

Achtemeier, *Nature, God, and Pulpit*, "God the Music Lover," 40-49. (all)

Santmire, *Brother Earth*, 192-200. (Ivanoff)

Evening: Grand Marais dinner, municipal pool

Friday May 23

5. 9am-noon **Ethics:**

Nash, "Loving Nature: Christian Love in an Ecological Context," 139-61. (Jones)

Cobb, "Christian Existence in a World of Limits," 172-87. (Auger)
Gustafson, "The Sense of the Divine: A Moral Stance," 1-54. (McMillan)

6. 1:30pm-4:30pm **Ecology:**

Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*, 165-226. (all)
Muir, *The Wilderness World of John Muir*, 231, 181-90, 311-23. (all)
Newsome, "To Have Dominion in the Earth," *The Amicus Journal*, 15-17. (all)
Olson, S., *Reflections: From the North Country*, 21-36. (all)

Evening: Discussion of Paul Gruchow, "Uses of Wildness" and *Boundary Waters: The Grace of the Wild*, 5-71.

Saturday May 24: Packing and preparation for Canoe portion of trip

BWCAW

Sun. May 25 enter BWCAW at Little John Lake
Mon. May 26 toward Pine
Tues. May 27 to Pine Lake camp
Wed. May 28 exit BWCAW at McFarland Lake
Thurs. May 29 clean cabin, pack, leisure; dinner at Naniboujou
Fri. May 30 travel to Chicago, 6am-6pm
Fri. June 6 Written integrative work is due.

COST

Transportation: no cost to student.

Pre-payment for trip costs (food and permit): \$80.00 each. Please make checks payable to Jim Bruckner **before leaving Chicago**. He will be purchasing food for the cabin and for the BWCAW. We will divide the grocery costs equally among us and pro-rate any adjustments.

Note: For eating while traveling to MN and back, and for three dinners "out" (at Naniboujou lodge and Grand Marais), bring your own resources (\$40-\$50 total).

Environmental Issue: The cabin has an eco-sensitive septic system. Please be prepared to take short and few showers.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

This is a list of articles in the Anthology. A couple of articles are not required in reading listed above, but are included for your use.

1. Cronon, "The Trouble with Wilderness," 69-90.
2. Waller, "Getting Back to the Right Nature: A Reply to Cronon," 540-67.
3. Fretheim, "Nature's Praise of God in the Psalms," 16-30.
4. Bouma-Prediger, "What's Wrong With the World?" 39-66.
5. White, "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis," 15-31.
6. Barr, "Man and Nature," 48-75.
7. Macquarrie, "Creation and Environment," 32-47.
8. Wendell Berry, *The Art of the Commonplace: the Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry*. Edited by Norman Wirzba, 219-35; 305-20.
9. Anderson, *Creation versus Chaos*, 11-47, 171-77.
10. Habel, *The Land is Mine*, 134-158.
11. "Guiding Principles for an Ecojustice Hermeneutic," (a letter from N. Habel).
12. McFague, "The Scope of the Body: the Cosmic Christ," 286-96.
13. Sittler, *Evocations of Grace*, "Nature as a Theater of Grace," 1-19; (by P. Bakken);
"Evangelism and the Care of the Earth," 202-206;
"Nature and Grace in Romans 8," 207-222.
14. Hendry, *Theology of Nature*, 11-30.
15. Achtemeier, *Nature, God, and Pulpit*, 40-49.
16. Santmire, *Brother Earth*, 192-200.
17. Nash, *Loving Nature: Ecological Integrity and Christian Responsibility*. Churches' Center for Theology and Public Policy. Nashville, Tenn.: Abingdon Press, 1991.
18. Cobb, "Christian Existence in a World of Limits," 172-87.
19. Gustafson, "The Sense of the Divine: A Moral Stance," 1-54.
20. Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*, 165-226.
21. Muir, *The Wilderness World of John Muir*, 231, 181-90, 311-23.
22. Olson, *Reflections from the North Country*, 21-36.
23. Paul Gruchow, *Boundary Waters: The Grace of the Wild*. Minneapolis: Milkweed Editions, 1997.
24. Jey Kanagaraj, "Ecological Concern in Paul's Theology" *Evangelical Quarterly* 70/4 (1998), 291-309.