

**Christian Ecotheology: Text, Context, and Practice**  
**Yale Divinity School – Summer Study 2016**  
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**Course Description:** This course explores the ways in which Christianity is responding to environmental degradation. Environmental problems pose not just new challenges where humans connect with nature, but they also give rise to new social and spiritual problems as well. Climate change, in this regard, sets the stage for reconsidering Christianity not just in terms of practice and policies, but also in terms of the central doctrines of faith.

This course interprets Christian responses to ecological problems from an interdisciplinary perspective. While we will examine the role that religious texts, ideas, and values play in shaping Christian attitudes and actions towards the environment, we will also consider the lived-experiences and practical engagement of Christians facing environmental problems through conversation, multimedia, and in-class activities. Since Christianity, and the responses to environmental issues that it generates, are diverse and constantly evolving, we will also be exploratory in our learning. In this sense, students in this course will visit the Yale University Art Gallery to encounter ecological themes in Christian art and culture, engage with current students to learn about “green” practices at the intersection of faith and ecology on YDS’ campus, explore Christian texts and beliefs during a visit to the Marsh Botanical Gardens, and more.

This is intended to be an introduction to a broad spectrum of issues and responses residing at the intersection of Christianity and ecology. No prior experience is necessary.