

DRAFT SYLLABUS – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

BIBL 7170: Symposium on the Theological Interpretation of Scripture

Theme: Creation Care

North Park Theological Seminary

Fall 2022; intensive dates: Sept 15–16

3 credit hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is held in conjunction with the annual North Park Symposium on the Theological Interpretation of Scripture and deals with the topic of the symposium for that year. Students are required to attend all sessions of the Symposium as well as scheduled class sessions. (from Catalog)

The class will foster concentrated reflection on the papers presented at the Symposium and allow students to participate more meaningfully in the Symposium event. This year's Symposium focuses on creation care. The center of the class will be the two-day seminar (meeting Thursday, September 15, and Friday, September 16). **Attendance at all sessions is required and reading of all symposium papers is assumed.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the class, students will be able to:

1. Articulate major biblical, historical, and theological issues relevant to creation care;
2. Engage the theme of creation care in the theological interpretation of Scripture;
3. Assess potential implications of the theme for understanding the Christian life and the pastoral practice of the church.

STYLE OF LEARNING

This course is intended to develop your skills as a lifelong learner, equipping you to define issues and formulate projects for yourselves so that you can do this beyond your degree program without the support of a class structure. The role of the instructor is therefore not tightly to define the work you will do for the class but to help you to define that work for yourself. For this reason, you are encouraged to consult the instructor, and it is your responsibility to be in touch and request conversations as necessary. You may contact the instructor and arrange for a conversation prior to the symposium about your choice of books for review if you are uncertain about which books to choose; and you may contact the instructor after the symposium and arrange for a conversation about your research paper proposal.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Two texts selected for book review (see list below)
- Symposium papers (to be distributed when available)
- Additional sources will be selected for final research paper (approved by instructor)

ASSESSMENTS

- 1. Participation** (10% of course grade). Students must participate in the following ways:
 - Read all Symposium papers in advance
 - Attend the entire Symposium (register [here](#)), and ask at least one question in any session
 - Attend and participate in additional class meetings outside scheduled paper sessions (Sept 15–16)
- 2. Written discussion** (20% of course grade). After the Symposium you will engage in two discussion forums. In the first forum, we will discuss questions emerging from paper sessions that we wish to pursue as a class.
- 3. Book analysis** (30% of course grade). In ~2,000 words, compare and contrast two books that address the relationship between the Bible and creation care. You may choose from the list below or, if you like, you may suggest other books. If you choose others, please submit those to the instructor for approval at least a week before the due date.
- 4. Research paper** (40% of course grade; proposal Oct 30, paper due Dec 4).

ASSESSMENT SUBMISSION

- Submit all work through Canvas *as Word files*, including your last name in the document title.
- Assessments are due 11:59pm in your timezone on the date listed. Unless you have made an arrangement 24 hours prior to the due date, work submitted late will receive a 1/3 grade reduction each day (e.g., an A would receive A- after one day, etc.) and may receive less detailed feedback. Work will not be accepted over two weeks late.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park Theological Seminary is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25–27.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program’s office as soon as possible to ensure accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information, see [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 19–20 and “[Disability Resources](#)” provided through North Park’s Office of Student Enrichment Services and Support.

TITLE IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Dean of Students (773-244-5565) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5599) for information about campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services. As a member of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University's Title IX coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student's safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking. Please refer to [North Park's Safe Community site](#) for contact information and further details.

INCOMPLETE POLICY

If, due to extenuating circumstances a student anticipates he will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student must submit the request form for a grade of incomplete to the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, the grade for that class will be listed as "I" until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of "I" will automatically be changed to "F."