

“The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.”

Course	CREATION, NEW CREATION, AND CREATION STEWARDSHIP THEO 0653 1P/1S
Date, Time, and Delivery Format	SEPTEMBER 9 – DECEMBER 6, 2024 5 FRIDAYS, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM (Sept. 20, Oct. 4 & 18, Nov. 8 & 22) IN-PERSON WITH SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE OPTION
Instructor	JAMES E. PEDLAR, PhD (416) 226-6620 Ext. 2215 jpedlar@tyndale.ca
Class Information	Class time is officially 9:00 am – 4:00 pm on the five dates noted above, but the instructor intends to pre-record lectures and post them ahead of time, providing more flexibility for lecture viewing and a shortened “live” (in-person and online) session each day (approx. 90 mins in the morning and 90 mins in the afternoon). Further details will be shared on the course page before the start of the course. Office hours appointments can be booked online at various times throughout the week via an online form on the course page.
Course Material	Access course material at classes.tyndale.ca or other services at Tyndale One . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course studies the theology of salvation, particularly as it relates to the place of the created order in God’s redemptive plan and the meaning of “the restoration of all things” in the new creation by the Spirit through the work of Jesus Christ. It draws on biblical, historical and systematic theology to construct a theological approach to creation stewardship as an aspect of Christian mission.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Discuss the systematic theological basis for creation stewardship, drawing on the following areas of Christian doctrine: Trinitarian theology, theology of creation, theological anthropology, hamartiology, soteriology, ecclesiology, eschatology.
2. Explain how the practice of creation stewardship is grounded in the biblical witness.
3. Integrate the theology of creation stewardship into Christian practice and mission in the contemporary context.
4. Critically discuss a particular aspect of the theology of creation stewardship in significant detail.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

Middleton, J. Richard. [*A New Heaven and a New Earth: Reclaiming Biblical Eschatology*](#). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014. ISBN: 9780801048685

Snyder, Howard A., and Joel Scandrett. [*Salvation Means Creation Healed: The Ecology of Sin and Grace*](#). Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2011. ISBN: 9781608998883

Other short readings, as per the course schedule, will be made available on the course page.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Tyndale recommends www.stepbible.org – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

C. INTERACTIVE LIVESTREAM AND/OR BLENDED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Livestream attendance for the entire duration of the class at announced times
- Headphones (preferred), built-in microphone, and web-camera
- Well-lit and quiet room
- Stable high-speed internet connection, preferably using an Ethernet cable over Wi-Fi
- Full name displayed on Zoom and Microsoft Teams for attendance purposes*
- A commitment to having the camera on to foster community building*

*exceptions with permission from professor

D. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to “Guidelines for Interactions” on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

E. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Marking rubrics for all assignments will be provided on our course page.

1. Discussion Leadership (2 x 15% = 30% total). Each student will sign up to assist the instructor in facilitating discussion for **two class readings as per the list below**. A schedule will be established at the first class meeting. This assignment will entail the creation of five discussion-starter questions for each of the two assigned readings. The questions will be submitted on the course page by 11:55 PM on the day prior to the class in question. The questions should demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the reading in question. Students should consult the discussion question marking rubric and sample questions (posted on the course page) for further guidance.

Eligible readings (those not in required texts are available on the course page):

- Woodley, “God’s First Discourse,” – September 20, afternoon.
- Wirzba, “Perceiving Creation” – October 4, morning.
- Middleton, *A New Heavens and a New Earth*, chapter 2 – October 4, afternoon.
- Francis, “The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis” – October 18, morning.
- Snyder, *Salvation Means Creation Healed*, chapter 7 – October 18, afternoon.
- Wesley, “The New Creation” – November 8, morning.
- Wright, “Mission and God’s Earth” – November 8, afternoon.
- Wirzba, “Thinking Theologically About Food” – November 22, morning.

2. Research Paper Proposal (25%, due October 12, 11:59 pm). This proposal should include 1) a statement of the topic, 2) a tentative thesis, 3) an outline of the major sections of your paper with a brief description of each section, and 4) a preliminary bibliography. The outline should be approximately 2-4 pages, double-spaced, plus bibliography. The outline will help you to get a good start on the paper, and will provide the instructor with an opportunity to give you feedback before you have finished your work.

3. Research paper (45%, 12-15 pages, double-spaced; due December 7, 11:55 PM). Students will write a research paper on a topic relevant to the theology and practice of creation stewardship. Papers should focus on a particular theological question, topic, or theologian,

within the broad scope of material discussed in the course. All papers should include an integrative reflection on the practical implications of the topic under consideration. A list of suggested topics will be provided in class.

Turnitin Text-Matching Software

Tyndale has a subscription to text-matching software called Turnitin. This software is used to ensure the originality of academic writing and to check that all of the sources used have been cited correctly. The instructor for this course will be using this software for the assignments that are submitted through your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca. When you submit your assignment, you will see a summary of your submission, which includes the file(s) that you submitted as well as a similarity report generated by Turnitin.

Below are some useful resources:

- [Student](#) Guides for Turnitin via classes.tyndale.ca course resource page
- Interpreting Similarity ([Guide](#), [Video](#), [Spectrum](#))

F. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

G. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Discussion leadership	30 %
Research paper proposal	25 %
Research paper	45 %
Total Grade	100 %

H. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Assignments are to be uploaded to the assignment submission section of the course page in pdf or Microsoft Word format by 11:59 PM (Eastern Time) on the assigned due date. Papers submitted after 11:59 PM on the due date will receive a 1/3 grade deduction (i.e., B+ to B) for each day (or part thereof) following the due date. This late policy will apply to all assignments for which no extension has been granted. Extensions will be granted only for serious personal, family, or health situations.

Assignments should be double-spaced, in 12 pt Times New Roman font, with 1" margins. The standard citation method for theological papers is **full footnotes with a complete bibliography** in the **Chicago style**. For proper citation style, consult [Tyndale Library LibGuide](#), which provides links to the [Citing in Chicago](#) Guide from Tyndale's Centre for Academic Excellence and the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#) (see especially chapter 14).

The bibliographic software **Zotero** is recommended as a helpful citation tool which will save time and help to ensure that proper formatting is followed (available free at www.zotero.org).

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism (including improper use of artificial intelligence programs). Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty. Please refer to the [Academic Integrity website](#) for further details.

Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#). Citation and other [tip sheets](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Dean's Office (aa@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

I. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

All readings other than course text books are available on the course resource page

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20 (AM): INTRODUCTION AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Readings: Snyder, chapters 1-4
Middleton, chapter 1 and Appendix

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20 (PM): CREATION AND THE CREATOR

Readings: Hans Boersma, "The Shape of the Tapestry: A Sacramental Ontology," in *Heavenly Participation*, 19-39 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2011).
C. S. Lewis, "The Weight of Glory," in *The Weight of Glory*, 1-15 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1949).
Randy Woodley, "God's First Discourse: Connected to Creation," in *Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision*, 45-64 (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012).

FRIDAY OCTOBER 4 (AM): THE GOODNESS OF CREATION; THE "BOOK OF NATURE"

Readings: Thomas Oden, "God the Creator and Creation" (excerpt), in *The Living God*, 227-231, 246-269 (San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1992).
Norman Wirzba, "Perceiving Creation," in *From Nature to Creation*, 60-94 (Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2015).
Gerald McDermott, "Appendix: Theological Objections, - Luther and Barth," in *Everyday Glory: The Revelation of God in All of Reality*, 195-206.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 4 (PM): HUMANITY, THE IMAGE OF GOD AND STEWARDSHIP

Readings: Middleton, chapters 2 and 5
Snyder, chapter 8
Francis, Pope, "The Gospel of Creation," chapter 2 of *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home*. Encyclical Letter, May 24, 2015.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 (AM): SIN AND THE GROANING OF CREATION

Readings: Middleton, chapter 3
Snyder, chapters 5-6

Francis, Pope, "The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis," chapter 3 of *Laudato Si: On Care for our Common Home*. Encyclical Letter, May 24, 2015

FRIDAY OCTOBER 18 (PM): THE COSMIC SCOPE OF SALVATION

Readings: Middleton, chapters 4 and 6
Snyder, chapter 7

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 (AM): ESCHATOLOGY; THE NEW CREATION

Readings: Middleton, chapters 7-10
John Wesley, Sermon 64, "The New Creation," in *The Works of John Wesley*, vol. 2, ed. Albert C. Outler, 500-510 (Nashville: Abingdon, 1985).

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 8 (PM): CREATION AND THE CHURCH'S MISSION

Readings: Snyder, chapters 9, 10, 11
Christopher J. H. Wright, "Mission and God's Earth," in *The Mission of God*, 397-420 (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2006).

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22 (AM): ETHICS AND THE PRACTICE OF CREATION STEWARDSHIP

Readings: Middleton, chapters 11-12
Wirzba, "Thinking Theologically about Food," in *Food and Faith: A Theology of Eating*, 1-34 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22 (PM): CONCLUSION

Readings: Snyder, Chapters 12-13
Berry, "Christianity and the Survival of Creation," in *The Art of the Commonplace*, 305-320 (Washington, DC: Counterpoint, 2002).

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

[Tyndale Library](#) supports this course with [e-journals](#), [e-books](#), and the [mail delivery of books](#) and circulating materials. See the [Library FAQ page](#).

Bahnson, Fred, and Norman Wirzba. *Making Peace with the Land: God's Call to Reconcile with Creation*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2012.

Bauchham, Richard. *Bible and Ecology: Rediscovering the Community of Creation*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2010.

- Berry, Wendell. *The Art of the Commonplace: Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry*. Edited by Norman Wirzba. Washington, D.C.: Counterpoint, 2002.
- Blanchard, Kathryn D'Arcy, and Kevin J O'Brien. *An Introduction to Christian Environmentalism: Ecology, Virtue, and Ethics*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2014.
- Boff, Leonardo. *Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997.
- . *Ecology and Liberation: A New Paradigm*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1995.
- Bouma-Prediger, Steven. *The Greening of Theology: The Ecological Models of Rosemary Radford Ruether, Joseph Sittler, and Juergen Moltmann*. Atlanta, GA: Scholars Press, 1995.
- Brown, Edward R. *Our Father's World: Mobilizing the Church to Care for Creation*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2008.
- Brown, William P. *The Seven Pillars of Creation: The Bible, Science, and the Ecology of Wonder*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *The Land: Place as Gift, Promise, and Challenge in Biblical Faith*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977.
- Brunner, Daniel L., Jennifer L. Butler, and A. J. Swoboda. *Introducing Evangelical Ecotheology: Foundations in Scripture, Theology, History, and Praxis*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.
- Brunner, Emil, and Karl Barth. *Natural Theology*. Edited by Peter Fraenkel. Translated by John Baillie. London: Geoffrey Bles, 1946.
- Chryssavgis, John, and Bruce V Foltz, eds. *Toward an Ecology of Transfiguration Orthodox Christian Perspectives on Environment, Nature, and Creation*. New York: Fordham University Press, 2013.
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- Davis, Ellen F. *Scripture, Culture, and Agriculture: An Agrarian Reading of the Bible*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
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- , ed. *Doctrine of Creation: Essays in Dogmatics, History and Philosophy*. London: Continuum, 2004.
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- . *The Triune Creator: A Historical and Systematic Study*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1998.

- Horrell, David G, Cheryl Hunt, and Christopher Southgate. *Greening Paul: Rereading the Apostle in a Time of Ecological Crisis*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2010.
- Jacobs, Adrian. "Creation Speaks: An Aboriginal Christian's Reflections." *Vision: A Journal for Church and Theology* 9, no. 1 (2008): 35–43.
- Klink, Edward W. *The Beginning and End of All Things: A Biblical Theology of Creation and New Creation*. Essential Studies in Biblical Theology. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2023.
- Kostamo, Leah. *Planted: A Story of Creation, Community, and Calling*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2013.
- Macchia, Frank D. "Justification through New Creation: The Holy Spirit and the Doctrine by Which the Church Stands or Falls." *Theology Today* 58, no. 2 (2001): 202.
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