

Political Theology of the Earth: Process Cosmology & Apocalyptic Hope

Summer 2019

TPS-3### / TPS-4###

Claremont School of Theology

Professor:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Amid melting glaciers, rising waters, and spreading droughts, Earth has ceased to tolerate our pretense of mastery over it. But how can we confront climate change when political crises keep exploding in the present? This course will invite us to read the feedback loop of political and ecological depredation as secularized apocalypse from a process perspective. If the politics of exceptionalism are theological in origin, should we not enlist the world's religious communities as part of the resistance? Might we consider dissolving the opposition between the religious and the secular in favor of a broad planetary movement for social and ecological justice? When we are confronted by populist, authoritarian right wings founded on white male Christian supremacy, can we counter with a messianically charged, often unspoken theology of the now-moment, calling for a complex new public? These are some of the questions we will engage during this course, as we work to weave a process political theology of the earth which activates the world's entangled populations, joined in solidarity and committed to revolutionary solutions to the entwined crises of the Anthropocene.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who successfully complete this class will be able to:

1. Articulate the fundamental ideas of process theology and process cosmology.
2. Write perceptively about the entwined social, political, and ecological crises of the Anthropocene.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:

Paper: A theological essay on process theology as a political theology of the earth, putting process cosmology to work toward addressing the entwined crises of the Anthropocene. 5-8 pages for 3000 level, 10-12 pages for 4000 level (assesses SLO #1, 2).
Due 1 August 2019.

COURSE TEXTS:

Note: Additional required reading may be provided via hyperlink or pdf.

Keller, Catherine, *Political Theology of the Earth: Our Planetary Emergency and the Struggle for a New Public* (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2018)