

AN ECOLOGICAL THEOLOGY OF MOANA (CREATION): AN OCEANIC PERSPECTIVE

Level: 2 & 3 - Bachelor of Divinity Programme

Duration: 1. Term (10 Weeks)

Credit Points: 4

Generic name: Theology 221/231

Academic Year 2002

Term: Term 3, 2002

Lecturer: Dr. Ama'amalele Tofaeono (and others)

Class Sessions: Monday and Wednesday; 9.00-10.45am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Moana is often taken for granted. She is perceived and treated as a passive agent of God to be scientifically invaded and inhumanely exploited by mismanaged developments. For us, Oceanians, Moana is our home. It is our root and the stronghold of life. We claim the great Moana as a place where we live, move and find our beings. Inevitably however, Moana is constantly being violated of her own integrity.

This course attempts to (re)direct the students to the roots of their own religio-cultural land-sea-air-based experiences. With reference to Moana as 'important motifs,' if not central to biblical and systematic theology, Moana will be seen as the 'fountain' of theological and scientific articulations. This means that the reality of 'life,' 'livelihood,' and 'well-being' of Moana are examined, called into question, analysed and critiqued constructively.

Unveiling the prevailing mores and values the oceanic societies construct for themselves in relation to Moana, the course attempts to firstly explore related theological themes. Myths, symbols, signs and experiences of the time will be taken up as the basis of theological articulations.

We will also examine the current scientific discussions and findings related to the invasions of Moana. A dialogue between theological and scientific findings will be mapped out as points of departure for constructing appropriate theological response/s that offer life-promising alternatives for the so-called 'densely poor majority' in Oceanic communities. It is the hope that an Ecological-Theology of Moana will not only be theological in its approach but also scientific in its content and intent.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

It is planned that, at the completion of this course, the students will be exposed to theological (religious) and scientific themes and able to:

* identify and describe the significant theological and scientific meaning of Moana in the oceanic cultural-contexts. Students are to be reminded of the specified contextual issues related to Moana;

* critically analyse and expose the determining theological and scientific factors that lead to the many abuses of Moana. The contemporary debate on theological and scientific perspectives must be explored in detail and brought into dialogue;

* discover strengths and the weaknesses of identified issues in relation to traditional (missionary) theological and scientific understandings / theories related to Moana;

* reflect on 'how and what' theology/ies and scientific findings could offer as alternatives or solutions for oceanic communal and societal problems;

* research and write in a constructive manner, one's own Ecological-Theology of Moana. This theological articulation must reflect an ecological life-affirming theological construct and a scientifically-welcoming kind of contextual approach.

COURSE OUTLINE / SYLLABUS

The course outline is framed in such a way that it could cover a wider spectrum; ranging from the reality of Moana, the economic and political dimensions, scientific adventures and findings, the historical face/interface, the biblical perspectives, the impacts of philosophical thinking on the use and/or abuse and finally the theological significance of Moana.

Part I:

Wk.1 Introduction - Traditions of Moana Lecturer
Dr. A. Tofaeono

We attempt in the first part to introduce students to the main aims, objectives and the requirements of the course. After a brief review of the course syllabus, the students will be exposed to the contemporary etymological studies of the concept, what it literally portrays and its significance in scientific and theological studies. Some issues of concern are listed as follow:

Aim, Objectives, Content and Requirements
Etymological Studies of Moana
Literal and Symbolic Meanings of Moana

'Moana' - A Religio-Cultural Heritage: An Exploration
Myths, Legends and Oral Traditions of Moana
Sacramental Views of Moana

Required Readings:

Eliade, Mircea. *The Sacred and the Profane: The Nature of Religion*. London: A Harvest Book, 1987.

Tofaeono, Ama'amalele. *Eco-theology: Aiga - The Household of Life: A Perspective from Myths and Traditions of Samoa*. Erlangen: Missions Verlag, 2000. (Chapters 3 & 4).

Nelson, J. A. "Our Spirits, Our Soils," *Sojourners* 8/6 (1979): 8-9.

Supplementary Readings:

Barbour, Ian G. *Myths, Models and Paradigms*. London: SCM Press, 1974.

Eliade, Mircea. *Myth and Reality*. London: Harper Torchbooks, 1963.

Kirch, P. Vinton. *The Lapita Peoples: Ancestors of the Oceanic World*. New York: Blackwell, 1997.

Tuwere, Sevati. "Making Sense of the Vanua (Land) in the Fijian Context: A Theological Exploration Dissertation." Ph.D. Dissertation, Melbourne College of Divinity, 1992.

Part II: Theology and Sciences of Moana

The students are exposed in this part to the scientific studies and the religious proponents of scientific findings. It is the hope that after exploring the main theme from both perspectives, the bridges can be built in their understandings as a way of harmonizing the reality of Moana in its wholeness. This part is planned to cover two Weeks.

Wk.2 The Evolution of Oceanic Eco-Systems Guest Lecturer
Oceanic Studies and Discoveries U.S.P.
Marine Biology and Gifts from the Moana

Wk.3 The Evolutionary Defects of Oceanic Eco-Systems Lecturer
Pollution and Defects of Human Developments U.S.P.
Nuclear Testings, CFC's and Rising Sea-Level etc...

Required Readings

Drees, W. B. *Religion, Science and Naturalism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Haight, John. *Science and Religion: From Conflict to Conversation*. Paulist Press, 1998. pgs. 183-203.

Supplementary Readings

Barbour, Ian. Religion in the Age of Science. London: SCM Press, 1990. Chapter 1.

Lindbergh, M. Anne. Gift from the Sea. Pantheon Books, 1996.

Hayes, Peter. The American Lake: Nuclear Perils in the Pacific. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1986.

Part III:

Wk.4 Moana: The Historio-Cultural Perspectives Prof. E. Hau'ofa

The students will be dealt with the historical and the anthropological studies of Moana. The main themes to be explored in this quest are closely related to the origin of the Oceanic communities, their socio-cultural adaptations, their subsistence economies, as well as the formation of a religiously-oriented Oceanic identity which can be defined as a reciprocating lifeway. The themes to be covered are:

Our Sea of Islands

The Ocean in Us; We are the Ocean

Affirming our Oceanic Identity

Economics and Socio-Political Dimensions of Moana.

Required Readings:

Waddell, Eric. A New Oceania: Rediscovering Our Sea of Islands. Suva: University of the South Pacific Publication, 1993.

Hau'ofa, Epeli. "The Ocean in Us," in Dialogue, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1998: 392-410.

Daly, Herman. E. For the Common Good: Redirecting the Economy toward Community, the Environment and a Sustainable future. Boston: Beacon Press, 1989.

Supplementary Readings:

Greider, William. "Oikonomia," in: One World, Ready or Not - The Magic Logic of Global Capitalism. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1997.

The Indigenous People Struggles for Land and Identity in the Pacific. Papers from a Workshop, 11-14 Sept, 2000. World Council of Churches / Pacific Conference of Churches.

Meeks, M. Douglas. God the Economist: The Doctrine of God and Political Economy. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1989.

Part IV:

Wk.5 & 6 Biblical Motifs and Ideologies of Moana

The Moana in the Old Testament Dr. A. Brawley
The New Testament Views on Moana Dr. T. Burke

A solid biblical foundation for an Ecological Theology of Moana is greatly needed. In this regard, some biblical texts will be explored from an Oceanic perspective. The participants will therefore be engaged in a critical-exegetical exercise as a prerequisite to profound and holistic interpretations and understandings of Moana in the Bible. Thus the biblical themes will be approached from the hermeneutical suspicious point of view.

Required Readings:

Anderson, Bernhard W. "Creation and Ecology," in: *Creation in the Old Testament*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984: 153-171.

Brueggemann, W., *The Land: Overtures to Biblical Theology*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.

-----, "Land, Fertility and Justice." in: *Theology of the Land*, B. Evans and G. Cusack, eds., Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, (1987): 41-68.

Habel, Norman C., *The Land is Mine: Six Biblical Land Ideologies*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.

Supplementary Readings

Anderson, Bernhard. *Creation versus Chaos: The Reinterpretation of Mythical Symbolism in the Bible*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

-----, *From Creation to New Creation: Old Testament Perspectives*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.

Habel, Norman. "Peoples at Peace: The Land Ideology of the Abraham Narratives." *Religion and Multiculturalism in Australia*, ed., Adelaide AASR, (1992): 336-349.

-----, "The Suffering Land: Ideology in Jeremiah," *Luth. Theological Journal* 26 (92): 14-26.

-----, "The Crucified Land: Towards our Reconciliation with the Earth," *Colloquium* 28/2 (1996): 3-17.

Wittenberg, Gunther. "The Significance of Land in the Old Testament," *Journal for Theology in South Africa* 77 (1991): 58-60.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *God's People in God's Land: Family, Land and Property in the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990.

Part V:

Wk.7-10 An Ecological-Theology of Moana: Dr. A. Tofaeono
Dr. K. Solomone

The last four Weeks will be spent on the articulation of an Eco-Theology of Moana. The students will be exposed to a series of theological discourses, ranging from Moana in the Life of the God-Head, the transcendental and immanent nature of the God of the Moana, some Panentheistic and Feminist ideas and experiences of God and moreso, the liberating power of God or God's life-giving and permeating Spirit in Moana. Some theological implications (which are more scientific-welcoming) of the Ecological Theology of Moana will be identified for the ministries of the Oceanic Churches.

Wk.7 Moana in the Life of the Trinity Dr. A. Tofaeono Systematic Theological Perspective

Required Readings:

Gregersen, Neils, and Van Huyssteen, J. Wentzel, eds., *Rethinking Theology and Science: Six Models for the Current Dialogue*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Ltd, 1998.

Moltmann, J. *God in Creation: A New Theology of Creation and the Spirit of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

Tofaeono, Ama'amalele. *Eco-theology: Aiga - The Household of Life: A Perspective from Myths and Traditions of Samoa*. Erlangen: Missions Verlag, 2000. (Chapters 5,6 & 7).

Tuwere, Sevati. "Making Sense of the Vanua (Land) in the Fijian Context: A Theological Exploration. Dissertation." Ph.D. Dissertation, Melbourne College of Divinity, 1992.

Supplementary Readings

Boff Leonardo and Elizondo, Virgil. eds., *Ecology and Poverty*. London: SCM Press, 1995.

Bouma-Prediger, Steven. *The Greening of Theology: The Ecological Model of Rosemary Radford Reuther, Joseph Sittler, and Jürgen Moltmann*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1995.

Boff, Leonardo. *Ecology and Liberation: A New Paradigm*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1995.

Berry, Thomas. *The Dream of the Earth*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1988.

Edwards, Denis. *Earth Revealing Earth Healing: Ecology and Christian Theology*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 2001.

Flanagan, James W. "Ancient Perceptions of Space/Perceptions of Ancient Space,"
Semeia (2000): 15-43.

Moltmann, J. Gott im Projekt der modernen Welt: Beiträge zur öffentlichen Relevanz der
Theologie. Gütersloh: Kaiser Verlag Haus, 1997.

Wk.8 God outside Moana and Moana outside God Dr. A. Tofaeono
A Transcendental Device - Theology and Science
Dichotomy of Spirit and Nature - A Philosophical-Theological Analysis

Required Readings

Gottlieb, Roger S. ed., This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, Environment. New York:
Routledge, 1996.

Morrison, Roy D. ed., Science, Theology and the Transcendental Horizon: Einstein,
Kant, and Tillich. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1994.

Polkinghorne, J. C. Belief in God in a Scientific Age. Yale University Press, 1998.

Supplementary Readings

Fergusson, David. A. S., The Cosmos and the Creator: An Introduction to the Theology
of Creation. London: SPCK, 1998.

Lilburne, Geoffrey R., A Sense of Place: A Christian Theology of the Land. Nashville:
Abingdon Press, 1989.

Ryan, S. "The Earth is the Lord's," In: Ecotheology: Voices From South and North,
David G. Hallmann, ed., Maryknoll: Orbis Book, 1994: 130-148.

Shinn, Roger. L. ed., Faith and Science in an Unjust World: Reports of the World
Council of Churches Conference on Faith, Science and the Future. Vol.1. Geneva: WCC
Publication, 1980.

Wk.9 Moana and the Incarnation:An Immanental Device. Dr. A. Tofaeono
A Feminist Eco-Theological Perspective Joan. F. Tofaeono
Moana - The Womb of Life

Required Readings:

Weaver, Jace. ed., Defending Mother Earth: Native American Perspective on
Environmental Justice. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1996.

Bouma-Prediger, Steven. *The Greening of Theology: The Ecological Model of Rosemary Radford Ruether, Joseph Sittler, and Jürgen Moltmann*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1995. (Chapter 2).

Wk.10 Moana as New Heaven and New Earth Dr. A. Tofaeono
Moana will be Forever: An Evolutionary-Theological Approach
The Spirit of God and Moana
Spirituality of Moana - A Postmodern Perspective

Required Readings:

Moltmann Jürgen. *The Source of Life: The Holy Spirit and the Source of Life*. London: SCM Press, 1997.

Theissen, Gerd. D. *Biblical Faith: An Evolutionary Approach*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1985.

Welker, Michael. *God the Spirit*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.

Supplementary Readings

Harbel, Norman. "Peoples at Peace: The Land Ideology of the Abraham Narratives." In: *Religion and Multiculturalism in Australia*, ed., Adelaide AASR, (1992): 336-349.

------. "The Crucified Land: Towards our Reconciliation with the Earth," *Colloquium* 28/2 (1996): 3-17

North, Robert. *Sociology of the Biblical Jubilee*. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1954.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The students will be drawn to participate in the process of doing theology and scientific researches by way of mutual or active participatory learning. This does not only help to refrain from a monologue-type of learning, but it also encourages the participants' creativity, originality and openness to analytical as well as constructive critiques. The course therefore, will consist of a combination of lectures, reading reports, seminars as well as writing research papers. Exposures to video screening and other practical/scientific experiments and researches are also encouraged.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Participants will be assessed on their attendance, active participation in class, reading reports and seminar presentations, together with two well-research essays of 5000 words each (15-20; 1.5 typed-well documented pages). As previously mentioned, the assessment is based on the participant's creativity and originality, logical of

argumentations, the wise use and incorporation of reading or researched materials as well as clarity and soundness (relevancy) of one's own theological articulation/s.

Grading

The students will be graded on their active participation in class activities, their presence in class, as well as summary reports of reading assignments, seminar presentations and two term papers (12 to 15 well typed and researched pages). Practical implications of these papers, identifying a strong synthesis of scientific findings and theological constructs are highly valued and appreciated.

Reading Reports / Summaries	20%
Seminar Presentations (2*10)	20%
Term Paper 1	30%
Term Paper 2	30%
Total	100%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anderson, Bernhard W. "Creation and Ecology," in: Creation in the Old Testament. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984: 153-171.

------. Creation versus Chaos: The Reinterpretation of Mythical Symbolism in the Bible. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1987.

------. From Creation to New Creation: Old Testament Perspectives. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1994.

Boff, Leonardo. Ecology and Liberation: A New Paradigm. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1995.

Boff Leonardo and Elizondo, Virgil. eds., Ecology and Poverty. London: SCM Press, 1995.

Bouma-Prediger, Steven. The Greening of Theology. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1995.

Brueggemann, W., The Land: Overtures to Biblical Theology. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1979.

------. "Land, Fertility and Justice." in: Theology of the Land, B. Evans and G. Cusack, eds., Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, (1987): 41-68.

Berry, Thomas. The Dream of the Earth. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1988.

Carroll, Robert. "The Myth of the Empty Land." Semeia 59 (1992): 79-93.

Clifford, R. J., *The Cosmic Mountain in Canaan and the Old Testament*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1972.

Crocombe, R. et al. (eds.), *Land Tenure in the Pacific*. Suva: Institute of Pacific Studies, 1971, 3rd ed. 1987.

Edwards, Denis. *Earth Revealing Earth Healing: Ecology and Christian Theology*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 2001.

Fergusson, David. A. S., *The Cosmos and the Creator: An Introduction to the Theology of Creation*. London: SPCK, 1998.

Flanagan, James W. "Ancient Perceptions of Space/Perceptions of Ancient Space," *Semeia* (2000): 15-43.

Gottlieb, Roger S. ed., *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, Environment*. New York: Routledge, 1996.

Greider, William. "Oikonomia," in: *One World, Ready or Not - The Magic Logic of Global Capitalism*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1997.

Habel, Norman C., *The Land is Mine: Six Biblical Land Ideologies*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.

----- "Peoples at Peace: The Land Ideology of the Abraham Narratives." In: *Religion and Multiculturalism in Australia*, ed., Adelaide AASR, (1992): 336-349.

----- "The Suffering Land: Ideology in Jeremiah," *Lutheran Theological Journal* 26 (1992): 14-26.

----- "The Crucified Land: Towards our Reconciliation with the Earth," *Colloquim* 28/2 (1996): 3-17.

Hau'ofa, Epeli. "The Ocean in Us," in *Dialogue*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1998: 392-410.

Kennedy, James M. "Peasants in Revolt: Political Allegory in Genesis," *JSOT* (1990):3-14.

Lilburne, Geoffrey R., *A Sense of Place: A Christian Theology of the Land*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1989.

Miller, Patrick D. "The Gift of God: The Deuteronomic Theology of the Land." *Interpretation* 23 (1969): 451-465.

Moltmann, Jürgen. *God in Creation: A New Theology of Creation and the Spirit of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

----- *Gott im Projekt der modernen Welt: Beiträge zur öffentlichen Relevanz der Theologie*. Gütersloh: Kaiser Verlag Haus, 1997.

Nelson, J. A. "Our Spirits, Our Soils," *Sojourners* 8/6 (1979): 8-9.

North, Robert. *Sociology of the Biblical Jubilee*. Rome: Pontifical Biblical Institute, 1954.

Rofe, Alexander. *The Vineyard of Naboth: The Origin and Message of the Story*. *Vetus Testament*. 38 (1988): 89-104.

Ryan, S. "The Earth is the Lord's," In: *Ecotheology: Voices From South and North*, David G. Hallmann, ed., Maryknoll: Orbis Book, 1994: 130-148.

Soggin, J. Alberto. "Compulsory Labor under David and Solomon." In: *Studies in the Period of David and Solomon*. T. Ishida, ed., Winona Lake, Ind.: Eisenbrauns, (1982): 259-267.

Stansell, Gary. "The Gift in Ancient Israel." *Semeia* (2000): 65-101.

Tofaeono, Ama'amalele. *Eco-theology: Aiga - The Household of Life: A Perspective from Myths and Traditions of Samoa*. Erlangen: Erlangen Missions Verlag, 2000.

Waddell, Eric. *A New Oceania: Rediscovering Our Sea of Islands*. Suva: University of the South Pacific Publication, 1993.

Weaver, Jace. ed., *Defending Mother Earth: Native American Perspective on Environmental Justice*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1996.

Westermann, Claus. *The Promise to the Fathers: Studies on the Patriarchal Narratives*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1980.

Wittenberg, Gunther. "The Significance of Land in the Old Testament," *Journal for Theology in South Africa* 77 (1991): 58-60.

Wright, Christopher J. H. *God's People in God's Land: Family, Land and Property in the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1990.

Zimmerli, Walther. "The 'Land' in the Pre-Exilic and Early Post Exilic Prophets." In: *Understanding the Word*, James Butler, ed., et al. Sheffield: JSOT Press, 1985.

Dissertations, Thesis and Projects:

Faasii, Urima. "God in the Fanua." (Unpublished MTh Thesis) PTC, Suva, 1994.

Frederix's, Teriiatetoofa. Integrity of Creation with reference to the Maohi Concept of Land. BD Project, PTC, Suva, 1980.

Tuwere, Sevati. "Making Sense of the Vanua (Land) in the Fijian Context: A Theological ExplorationDissertation." Ph.D. Dissertation, Melbourne College of Divinity, 1992.

Consult also Journals of Biblical Studies (esp on the theme - Land); Journal of Polynesian Societies (Land issues); as well as BD and M.Th Projects and Thesis - PTC Library.

Access to internet information are also highly recommended.