

Western University
Centre for Theory and Criticism
THEOCRIT 9149B: Ecological Conversion: from Critique to Creation

MEETINGS:Thursdays 1:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M., Stevenson Hall 3165

Instructor: Dr. Russell Duvernoy, PhD

Contact: rduverno@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Mondays from 2:30 to 4:30 PM or by appointment. (Office is Faculty Building 304, King's University College).

Course Description: Pierre Hadot has claimed that “the idea of conversion represents [a] notion constitutive for Western consciousness” such that, ultimately, “all education is conversion.” Given that a critical dynamic of our times is widespread sense of the need for deep, paradigmatic change, this course explores potentialand risks of “ecological conversion” as a figure forsuch transitional change. Though “ecological conversion” is most familiarly associated with Pope Francis, the course approaches conversion as a philosophical

Syllabus: This schedule may change during the semester to reflect course progress and student interests. Any changes will be announced in class and made on OWL.

Conversion Contexts and Conditions

Week One: Th Jan 12 Introductions, Conversion and Ecology

Readings: selections from *Laudato Si* Pope Francis

The Three Ecologies by Felix Guattari

Week Two: Th Jan 19: Conversion and ('western') Philosophy

Readings: "Conversion", "Spiritual Exercises", "The Sage and the World" Pierre Hadot / "Conversion, Lecture IX", "Conversion, Lecture X" William James (from

Lewis Gordon from *Freedom, Justice, and Decolonization* "Re-Imagining Liberations", "Towards the Decolonization of Normative Life"

Week Eight: Th Mar 9: Case Study: from Contract to Relation

Readings: selections from Charles S. Mills, *The Racial Contract*

"What is a Treaty? On Contract and Mutual Aid" by Aaron Mills / Waabishki Ma'iingan

"Changing the Treaty Question" by Heidi Kiiwetinepinesiik Stark

Thomas Hobbes, selections from *Leviathan*

Week Nine: Th Mar 16 : Conversion and Society: Transindividually and 'the' Human