

Course Syllabus

[Skip Syllabus Description](#) **Module 1: Pope Francis & the Encyclical**

Cardinal Turkson, one of the chief architects of the encyclical, discusses the context in which Laudato Si' was conceived and released. Importantly, Laudato Si' was designed to address a broader audience - beyond the Catholic faithful – in all parts of the world and representing all belief structures.

Module 2: On Care for Our Common Home

Professor Jeffrey Sachs provides a discussion of the content covered in the first chapter of the Laudato Si', titled "What is happening to our common home". In this part of the encyclical, Pope Francis covers issues such as pollution and climate change, inequality, water, biodiversity loss, and the breakdown of society and the quality of human life. All are presented as integrated parts of a collective whole that need to be addressed in harmony.

Module 3: Theology, Philosophy & the Encyclical

Bishop Sorondo delves into the second chapter of the Pope's encyclical. 'The Gospel of Creation', as the second encyclical chapter is entitled, provides the start for a broader discussion of the theological and philosophical foundation for the Laudato Si'.

Module 4: Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis

Dr. Anthony Annett illuminates the third section of the Pope's encyclical, which highlights the roots of the existing crisis. The Pope discusses the many social and environmental challenges facing the planet as part of a single crisis, brought on by a corrupt collective mindset and singular focus on power and profit.

Module 5: Global, National & Local Solutions

Professor Sachs discusses the fifth chapter of the Pope's encyclical, titled 'Lines of Approach & Action', looking at the global down to the local scale of action.

Module 6: International Ecological Conversion

Beyond the steps that humanity should take collectively to address the challenges of 'Integral Ecology', a personal transformation is also needed. Dr. William Vendley discusses this in the context of Ecological Conversion, a concept discussed throughout the Pope's encyclical.