

## Orthodox Theology: Introduction to the Eastern Orthodox Theology's View on the Environment

Author

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### Abstract

This lecture examines the view of the Orthodox theology on the environment through the examination of the origins & the sustainability of the environment, as well as the role of mankind in it.

### Timescale

One lecture (approximately 90 minutes) – possibly in 3 parts:

- PART A: What is the Orthodox view on the origins of universe?
- PART B: What is the Orthodox view on the sustainability of the environment?
- PART C: What is the Orthodox view of mankind?

### Key Terms

Orthodox, environment, science, mankind

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### Key competences / Learning outcomes

By the end of the lecture the students should have become familiar with the Eastern Orthodox Christian view on:

1. The origins of the environment/universe in relation to the most prominent scientific theories on the matter.
2. The sustainability of the environment.
3. The mankind and its relationship with the environment.

### References

- Matsoukas, N. (2016), *Dogmatic & Symbolic Theology A' (Dogmatiki & Symboliki Theologia A')*, Kyriakidis
- Matsoukas, N. (2016), *Dogmatic & Symbolic Theology B' (Dogmatiki & Symboliki Theologia B')*, Kyriakidis
- Stamoulis, Chr. (2019), *Eros & Thanatos (Eros & Death)*, Armos
- Basil of Caesarea, *The Hexaemeron* (9 homilies): <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/3201.htm>



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## Teaching Steps

Teaching Steps			
Phase/Time	Approach	Method	Social Form/ Tasks for students
Introduction (5 min)	Lecture: Introduction – Revision The lecturer reminds the students of what they have examined in the previous sessions, so that she/he can build the new knowledge on the old one.	Presentation by lecturer	Plenary
Group work (10 min)	The students are split into groups based on their worldviews, religious beliefs or academic expertise (e.g. Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Catholics, Protestants, Anglicans, Muslims, Jews, Atheists etc.) and are asked to think the answer to the following question: Q1. “What is your worldview/religion’s view & the Orthodox Christian view on the origins of universe?” (6 mins)  & then briefly present their answers to the plenary (4 mins)	Group exchange and discussion with partners	Group work
Lecture – Part 1 (10 min)	The lecturer presents the Orthodox theology’s view on the origins of universe (Q1).	Presentation by lecturer	Plenary
Group work (10 min)	The students remain in their previous groups and are asked to think the answer to the following question: Q2. “What is your worldview/religion’s view & the Orthodox Christian view on the sustainability of the environment?” (6 mins)  & then briefly present their answers to the plenary (4 mins)	Group exchange and discussion with partners	Group work



<p><b>Lecture – Part 2</b> (20 min)</p>	<p>The lecturer presents the Orthodox theology’s view on the sustainability of the environment (Q2).</p>	<p>Presentation by lecturer</p>	<p><b>Plenary</b></p>
<p><b>Group work</b> (10 min)</p>	<p>The students remain in their previous groups and are asked to think the answer to the following question: Q3. “What is your worldview/religion’s view &amp; the Orthodox Christian view on mankind &amp; its relationship with the environment?” (6 mins)</p> <p>&amp; then briefly present their answers to the plenary (4 mins)</p>	<p>Group exchange and discussion with partners</p>	<p><b>Group work</b></p>
<p><b>Lecture – Part 3</b> (15 min)</p>	<p>The lecturer presents the Orthodox theology’s view on mankind &amp; its relationship with the environment (Q3).</p>	<p>Presentation by lecturer</p>	<p><b>Plenary</b></p>
<p><b>Conclusion</b> (10 min)</p>	<p>The lecturer sums up the students’ views &amp; the Orthodox theology’s views on the environment and concludes the lecture.</p>	<p>Presentation by lecturer</p>	<p><b>Plenary</b></p>

