

Laudato Sí, UST Office of Sustainability Initiatives & Office of Mission

Project Description

This semester you will have the opportunity to work on one of two projects that strongly integrates theology and sustainability. Both projects support community partners to develop their [Laudato Sí action plans \(Links to an external site.\)](#). One project partners with the Catholic Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and focuses principally on Minnesota's vulnerabilities to climate change. The other project partners with the University of St. Thomas to articulate how St. Thomas's values and mission connect with the goals of Laudato Sí. This project will be worth 40% of your total course grade.

Overview

Community Partner: UST Office of Sustainability Initiatives and Office of Mission

Product(s):

- Draft of the "Reflection" section for the university's Laudato Si Action Plan, making clear how St. Thomas's values and mission connects with Laudato Sí.

This project will require that you become very familiar with the University's Sustainability Initiatives, including the Sustainability 2025 Plan and our past STARS reports. It will involve interviewing key players on sustainability initiatives at UST and developing a deep understanding of what we are doing and where we can improve. Finally, it will require that you understand the connections between Laudato Si and our university's activities, in order to develop a reasoned and measured reflection.

Tasks

1. Form project groups
2. Meet with community partners
3. Develop a plan of action, including:
 - a. Outlining main ideas and topics to address
 - b. Forming sub-teams to work on sub-projects
 - c. Researching sub-topics
 - d. Writing up summaries of sub-team's work
 - e. Contributing to the overall report or reflection
 - f. Creating a visually-appealing pamphlet for the Archdiocese, or a handout for UST
4. Presenting the final work to your community partners near the end of the semester

Resources

- We will post resources for these projects as they become available or as you find them and share them. They will be posted on the "Resource List" link on the Canvas navigation pane.

Grading Criteria

We would like to spread the grading of this project over a number of assignments that are due throughout the semester. We will provide rubrics for these assignments on the actual assignment pages. At a minimum, you should expect to complete:

Grade component	Weight
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Laudato Sí and CST connections assignments: As we move forward and learn more about CST and Laudato Sí, we will ask you to reflect on what we learned/discussed and how it connects to your project. There will be multiple, short assignments here.	40%
Mid-Point Check-in Detailed outline of your finished product(s).	10%
Peer-reviewed literature for your project.	10%
Presentation of final products to community partners	10%
Final products for community partners	30%
	100%

Group

Andrew Buirge, Amy Schmitz, Blake Matti, Ellie Schlangen, Isabel Crosby, Nick Witkowski, Vinny Zuehlsdorff, Gwen Dole & Liddy Ohe