

ACUCA

MDP/CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FOR WINTER 2026

COURSE PROPOSAL

**SUSTAINABILITY COMMUNICATION:
LEADERSHIP, ETHICS, AND *LAUDATO SI'***



Presented by
Prof. Dr. Dorien Kartikawangi, M.Si.

Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia

October 2025

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Name: Sustainability Communication: Leadership, Ethics, and *Laudato Si'*

Credit: 3 Credits

Term: MDP/CERTIFICATE PROGRAM FOR WINTER 2025

Period: 26 January 2026 - 13 February 2026

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Dorien Kartikawangi, M.Si.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines how communication shapes our understanding of sustainability and environmental stewardship, grounded in ethical reflection and inspired by the moral vision of *Laudato Si'*. It focuses on how leaders, organizations, and communities communicate about the environment—not only about climate, but also about biodiversity, waste, urban ecology, resource use, and community well-being.

Students will explore how faith-based values, ethics, and leadership can transform how people and institutions act toward the environment. Integrating theory, case studies, and reflective practice, the course fosters the development of communication leaders who can inspire change through ethical, empathetic, and inclusive environmental communication.

The course will be delivered online synchronously (via Zoom) and asynchronously (with discussion groups, multimedia resources, and guided reflections).

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the key concepts and dimensions of sustainability and environmental communication.
2. Analyze how leadership and ethics influence human–environment relationships.
3. Integrate the moral teachings of *Laudato Si'* and Catholic Social Thought into environmental leadership.
4. Design communication strategies that promote environmental responsibility, equity, and care for creation.
5. Reflect critically on personal values and leadership roles in promoting sustainable living.

TOOLS

- Laptop or personal computer
- Microsoft Office
- Digital collaboration tools
- Online library and case materials

LEARNING STRATEGIES

This course uses a blend of reflective and applied learning, with methods such as:

- Short interactive lectures and dialogues
- Case study discussions on communication and environment
- Leadership and ethical decision-making simulations
- Reflective journals based on *Laudato Si'* and real-world environmental issues
- Group projects to design sustainability communication initiatives

CLASS POLICY

- Attendance $\geq 80\%$ required for final project eligibility.
- Students arriving more than 30 minutes late are marked absent.
- Critical and respectful participation in class discussions is required.
- Plagiarism or AI misuse in assignments is not permitted.

GRADE SCHEME

1. Class Participation – 30%
2. Case Study / Reflection Paper – 30%
3. Group Project & Presentation – 40%

COURSE OUTLINE

Session 1: Understanding Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

- Key Topics: Concepts of sustainability; human–nature relationship; introduction to *Laudato Si'*
- Reading: Francis, P. (2015). *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. Vatican Press.
- Activity: Discussion on “What does care for our common home mean in today’s context?”

Session 2: Communication and the Environment

- Key Topics: How communication shapes environmental values and behaviors; environmental discourse and media narratives
- Reading: Cox, R., & Pezzullo, P. (2023). *Environmental Communication and the Public Sphere*. SAGE.
- Activity: Media mapping—analyzing how environmental issues are framed in public discourse.

Session 3: Sustainability Ethics

- Key Topics: Ethical foundations of environmental care; ecological virtues; responsibility and intergenerational justice
- Reading: Jonas, H. (1984). *The Imperative of Responsibility*. University of Chicago Press.
- Activity: Small-group ethical decision-making scenarios.

Session 4: Integral Ecology and Human Development

- Key Topics: The concept of integral ecology from *Laudato Si'*; social, cultural, and ecological dimensions of sustainability
- Reading: White, L. (2021). “Integral Ecology and Human Flourishing.” *Journal of Environmental Ethics*.
- Activity: Reflection—mapping human and environmental interdependence.

Session 5: Leadership for Environmental Transformation

- Key Topics: Servant and transformative leadership; values-based decision-making; moral courage
- Reading: Greenleaf, R. (2002). *Servant Leadership: A Journey into the Nature of Legitimate Power and Greatness*. Paulist Press.
- Activity: Leadership role-play: “Decision-making for community waste reduction.”

Session 6: Faith, Culture, and Ecological Communication

- Key Topics: Interfaith approaches to environmental stewardship; cultural communication and environmental values
- Reading: Tucker, M. E., & Grim, J. (2016). *Living Cosmology: Christian Responses to Journey of the Universe*. Orbis Books.
- Activity: Dialogue: Comparing Christian and Asian cultural perspectives on nature.

Session 7: Environmental Justice and Communication Ethics

- Key Topics: Environmental justice, equity, and the role of communication in advocacy
- Reading: Schlosberg, D. (2013). *Theorizing Environmental Justice: The Expanding Sphere of a Discourse*. Environmental Politics.
- Activity: Case analysis—environmental justice in local communities.

Session 8: Organizational and Corporate Environmental Responsibility

- Key Topics: Corporate sustainability communication; CSR and green marketing ethics; stakeholder engagement
- Reading:
 - Ihlen, Ø., & Verhoeven, P. (2022). *Public Relations and Social Responsibility*. Routledge.
 - Kartikawangi, D. (2017). Symbolic Convergence of Local Wisdom in Cross-Cultural Collaborative Social Responsibility: Indonesian Case, *Public Relations Review*, Vol. 43, Issue 1, March 2017, Pages 35–45
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.pubrev.2016.10.0120363-8111/>
- Activity: Group critique of an organization’s sustainability report.

Session 9: Digital Media for Environmental Awareness

- Key Topics: Digital storytelling, social media advocacy, and misinformation
- Reading: Foust, C. R., & Murphy, W. O. (2009). *Defining Environmental Communication*. Environmental Communication Journal.
- Activity: Develop a digital awareness mini campaign.

Session 10: Environmental Education and Behavior Change

- Key Topics: Communication for behavioral change; community empowerment; environmental literacy
- Reading:
 - Moser, S. C. (2016). *Communicating for Environmental Action*. WIREs Climate Change.
 - Kartikawangi, D. (2017). Symbolic Convergence of Local Wisdom in Cross-Cultural Collaborative Social Responsibility: Indonesian Case, *Public Relations Review*, Vol. 43, Issue 1, March 2017, Pages 35–45
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.pubrev.2016.10.0120363-8111/>
- Activity: Workshop—designing an educational outreach module.

Session 11: Laudato Si' Leadership Lab

- Key Topics: Leading with compassion and responsibility; moral imagination; reflection on stewardship
- Activity: Guided reflection and leadership self-assessment.

Session 12: Capstone Development

- Key Topics: Project planning, ethical messaging, and strategic storytelling
- Activity: Mentoring session for final group projects.

Session 13–15: Group Presentations and Reflection

- Key Topics: Presentation of sustainability communication projects
- Activity: Group presentation + course reflection “Becoming communicators of hope.”

REFERENCES

1. Francis, P. (2015). *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. Vatican Press.
2. Cox, R., & Pezzullo, P. (2023). *Environmental Communication and the Public Sphere*. SAGE.
3. Servaes, J. (2020). *Communication for Sustainable Development and Social Change*. SAGE.
4. Greenleaf, R. (2002). *Servant Leadership*. Paulist Press.
5. Jonas, H. (1984). *The Imperative of Responsibility*. University of Chicago Press.
6. Tucker, M. E., & Grim, J. (2016). *Living Cosmology: Christian Responses to Journey of the Universe*. Orbis Books.
7. Ihlen, Ø., & Verhoeven, P. (2022). *Public Relations and Social Responsibility*. Routledge.
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