



ALL THINGS IGNATIAN

Celebrating Mission at Creighton University

Ignatian Pedagogy for Sustainability (IPS)

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Overview

A group of educators at Jesuit colleges and universities have been engaged in conversation about how to prepare ourselves and our students to face the ecological crises of our era. We ask:

How should we approach teaching when the problems are so challenging?

What are the ways we should relate to students when we are struggling with these challenges?



Turning Desolations Into Consolations

Faculty shared challenges, or to use the Jesuit discernment term, *desolations*, in teaching sustainability or sustainability-related subjects. We reformulated the themes as *consolations*: proactive and positive targets, goals, and outcomes that would transform the learning experience for students in their study of sustainability. Our thematic development provides a resource for classroom intention to allow for the identification of opportunities and outcomes for sustainability instruction.

Five Themes of IPS

1: Truth, Honesty, and Humility

Being honest with ourselves and our students and being co-learners with everyone; assuming a position of humility in the face of planetary challenges that remind us there are no simple answers.

2: Multiple Modes of Knowing

Integrating multiple modes of knowing (scientific, embodied, spiritual, cultural, artistic, humanistic, experiential) ensures that we and our students are engaged mind, heart, soul and body.

3: Time, Concentration and Imagination



Taking time for prayer, reflection, meditation, self- and other-compassion, for focusing on what really matters, and for envisioning and then moving into the lives we want to live; removing the barriers in everyday life that limit focus on important concerns.

4: Community, Service, Obligation

In many ways, the above will be fully realized only in service to communities to which we feel a sense of belonging and obligation and to which we devote some of our energy and time for common goals and purposes. These can be families, neighborhoods, cities, religious communities, political parties, nonprofit organizations, schools, and universities. This assumes a long-term obligation to others regardless of an uncertain future.

5: Integrity with Nature

Recognizing and acting upon the scientific and spiritual truths of our interdependence on the natural world around us; being attentive to the lessons we receive when we are reflective about being part of and interacting in nature.

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“One need not look further than Pope Francis’s *Laudato Si*’ to find the definitive argument that we are in a crisis.”



MISSION WEEK