University of California at Santa Barbara
Environmental Science Department

ECOPSYCHOLOGY – ES 129
Fall 2017
Instructor: Dr. Lori Pye

Class Sessions: Tuesday and Thursday, 8-9:15am
Fall dates: September 26 – December 7, 2017
Location: GIRV 2129
Office Hours: See Instructor
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COURSE DESCRIPTION:
It seems that some of the primary questions we, as individuals and as a culture, are just beginning to ask are: How and why are we separate from nature, from each other. And, why are we destroying the very planet we rely on for survival - in other words, why are we eco-suicidal? These seem to be inter-related questions. We may all have a sense that there is not just one answer. It is an entire mythology, or if you prefer - an entire world view, that has to die for a new one to come into being. Our new myth of nature and of human nature is not yet in place.

This course will offer comparisons from principles of depth psychology with corresponding principles in biology and ecology in order to help us understand how metaphors and images can either hold a framework or mythology in place, or stimulate the creation of a change in attitudes and behaviors, in other words - the creation of a new narrative toward the natural world. The course examines the idea that the psychology of the individual is reflected in the community, culture and nation. Topics will include principles of depth psychology as they relate to ecopsychology, systems thinking, and how a sustainable psychological system encourages the development of sustainable natural systems, organizational systems, political and educational systems.

Goals & Objectives:
To examine the ecological processes of the natural world in order to better understand our human psychological processes. Students will receive instruction in ecological principles as they relate to psychology and discuss:

a). The concept of psyche as nature,
b). The loss of humanity’s connection to and with Nature,
c). Consequences on the human psyche from this disconnection,
d). Ideas for healing this disconnection and how reconnection affect one’s psychological life.

Learning Objectives:
By the completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and articulate the ecological principles governing and determining the processes of energy, diversity, waste, change and connection within all systems.

2. Define and articulate what a narrative or mythology is and how forms a framework for driving human behavior and practices.
3. Conduct an ecopsychological evaluation on your personal ecosystem and analyze the processes of energy, diversity, waste, change and connectivity within your ecosystem.

4. Contribute a more prepared, perceptive, empathic, and mature dimension to being a global citizen.

Texts:


Requirements: It is particularly important to participate in this course. The class environment becomes very quickly, an ecosystem. So your contributions are critical – in class discussions, group work and individual work are required to pass the course. Students are expected to keep a eco-journal during the class where the professor will provide questions for deeper examination. Students are also expected to create and present a final project.

Assessment:
Participation is critical in this course. Without it, you will not really understand ecopsychology and possibly miss an opportunity to learn a great deal about your self and others. Your grade is based on being in class and participating, keeping a journal – I don’t grade your journal answers, but it counts toward your grade that you complete all the questions with a sense of effort, and the final project that you will present to the class.

Your class grade is based:
Points will be earned in each of the above areas according to the following rubric:

A level work—demonstrates a thorough and accurate understanding of theories presented, with strong critical analysis applied to topic. Excellent work with sources and high level presentation skills. 100% attendance.

B level work—demonstrates an acceptable understanding of theories and successfully applies this to the topic. Good work with sources and good presentation skills. 85% attendance.

C level work—less than comprehensive understanding of material and with some evidence of misapplication of theory and ideas. Adequate presentation skills. 75% attendance.

D-F level work—assignment and/or page requirement not followed and/or inadequate work in one or more dimensions (theory, content, research, writing). Less than 75% attendance.

Final Presentation 50 points
Preparation and participation in class 50 points

The combined grading scale is as follows:

90-100 = A
75-89 = B
60-74 = C
50-59 = F
**Guidelines for a Final Project:**
Students will choose a topic to present to class that relates to the 5 ecopsychological principles discussed in class. Topics can be around ending violence toward women and nature, habitat/species loss, social inequality, ecosystem services and business, climate change, poverty, or redesigning a business using ecopsychological principles. We will discuss this more in class.

**Academic Integrity Statement:**
Plagiarism is the representation of someone else's writing, graphics, research, or ideas as one’s own. Paraphrasing an author’s ideas or quoting even limited portions of the work of others without proper citation are considered plagiarism. Extreme forms of plagiarism include submitting a paper written by another person or from a commercial source, or turning in a paper comprising selections from other sources without appropriate acknowledgement of those sources. Plagiarism is a violation of the principle of intellectual integrity and inquiry and, as such, is taken seriously when it occurs. If there is any question about the nature of plagiarism, students are encouraged to meet with their advisors or course instructors for clarification. Each program faculty also provides students with access to appropriate resources.

**Confidentiality Statement:**
Classes at University of California Santa Barbara include interactive elements, drawing on the rich experiences of faculty and student alike. Often in the course of these discussions, information of a personal nature is shared. It is the expectation of the University that such information will remain confidential, allowing all to share freely without fear of disclosure outside the classroom. Breaches of confidentiality damage the building of community and trust.

**Absence Policy:**
More than two unexcused absences will result in a “no credit/grade” evaluation. If you are absent, you will need to make up the work by next class meeting. See Professor.

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

Class Begins – Sept 26

**Class 1**

Systems

**Readings:**
Sabini/Jung – Ch 1
Ch. 1 & 2 Ehrenfeld

**Class 2**

Psyche as Ecosystem

**Readings:**
Ch. 3-5 Ehrenfeld

**Class 3**

Everything Runs on Energy - Ecological

**Readings:**
Ch. 6-8 Ehrenfeld

**Class 4**

Energy - Psychological

**Readings:**
Ch. 7, 8 Ehrenfeld

**Class 5**

Second principle: Biodiversity in necessary for all systems to flourish
Readings:
Ch. 9, 10  Ehrenfeld

Class  6
Biodiversity - Psychological
Readings:
Ch. 11, 12  Ehrenfeld

Class  7
There is No Waste In Nature, but lots in Human Nature
Readings:
Ch. 13, 14  Ehrenfeld
Hillman, Part II

Class  8
Waste - Psychological
Readings: Ch. 15 -16  Ehrenfeld

Class  9
Waste – Parasitism, Mutualism, Commensalism
Readings: Ch. 17  Ehrenfeld

Class  10
Waste _ Dreaded Emotions

Class  11
Change is Inevitable _ Ecology

Class  12
Change is Inevitable - Psychological

Class  13
Everything is Connected - Ecology

Class  14
Everything is Connected - Psychology

Class  15
Ecopsychological Applications

Class  16 – Student Presentations
Class 17 - Student Presentations
Class 18- Student Presentations
Class 19 - Student Presentations
Class 20 – Student Presentations