

**THE PSYCHOLOGY OF SUSTAINABILITY  
and  
ITS APPLICATION ON SOUTH AMERICAN CONSTITUTIONAL LAW**

**I. Rationale:**

This course aims to evaluate the field of eco-psychology, also called Psychology of Sustainability, and its relevance towards understanding the relationship between humans and the natural world and finding a more sustainable and harmonious means of living on the planet.

**II. Course Aims and Objectives:**

*Aims*

This course aims to get students to have some insight into the origins and complexity of contemporary environmental crisis in relationship to human consciousness and psychology. We will get some psychological insight into how we view ourselves, society and the greater than human world, in terms of our ideas of self, the other and our ecological interconnections. We will consider how these factors affect our behavior and attitudes towards other beings and natural systems, and how our psychopathologies may reflect our psychological and physical separation from nature. From a more legal level, this course aims also to study the concepts of Environmental Democracy and Ecological and Environmental Citizenship as solution to the ecological crisis. In particular the course study the South American Constitutional Law as an example of how the concepts and tools of eco-psychology can be used at legal level to reach environmental goals.

*Specific Learning Objectives:*

By the end of this course, students will be able to think critically in relationship to environmental psychology and will have gained a range of intellectual perspectives enabling them to analyze environmental rhetoric and unpack positivist tropes related to anthropocentric world-views and isolating and debilitating psychological models of consciousness.

**III. Format and Procedures:**

The course will be structured as a series of lectures and discussions during class time. Students are expected to read around the course themes and actively engage in debate and intercourse.

**IV. My Assumptions**

I assume that students will be entering the course with interest, commitment and open minds. I hope that new perspectives will be introduced to students and that they will actively contribute to the classes, both intellectually and personally.

**V. Course Requirements:**

**1. Class attendance and participation policy:**

In all courses a minimum of 85% attendance of the total course hours is mandatory. This rule may be adjusted for cases in which a documented reason is presented to the Dean of Academic Affairs.

**2. Primary Course readings are from following texts:**

- Emoto, M. 2005, 'The hidden Message from water', Atria Books.
- Fracchia F. *The Legal Definition of Environment: From Rights to Duties*, Research Paper No. 06-09, <http://ssrn.com/abstract=850488>
- Harding, S. 2006. 'Animate Earth, Science, Intuition & Gaia.' Green books.

- Parola, G. 2013, *Environmental Democracy at Global Level, Rights and duties towards a new citizenship*, Versita

## VI. Grading Procedures:

*Grades will be calculated on the basis of:*

*(a) 30% Presentations (2).*

*(b) 40% Middle semester exam + End of semester exam*

*(c) 30% Course participation*

Course topics	Other assignments and course details
1) Introduction - Technical information about the course - Documentary about the situation of the Earth	<a href="http://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/the_11th_hour/">http://www.filmsforaction.org/watch/the_11th_hour/</a>
<i>What is Psychology and Eco-psychology</i> 2) <i>Anima Mundi</i> : The scientific Revolution and the sense of separation	Assignment of paper and presentation topics
3) In service to Gaia	2 short Presentation
4) How our consciousness and awareness influences the Environment? Water example.	2 Short Presentation
5) The used of eco-psychology tools in a South American Context	Discuss in class and Group debate
6) Exam about 1 <sup>^</sup> part of the course	+ 2 individual presentation to class on readings
7) Environmental Crisis and solutions: Theoretical solution: Analysis of terms “Democracy”, “Environment” (anthropocentric approach and ecocentric approach)	+ 1 individual presentation to class on readings
8) “Environmental Democracy”	+ 1 individual presentation to class on readings
9) New citizenship: Ecological and Environmental citizens: Ecological duties and Environmental rights	+ 1 individual presentation to class on readings
10) Environmental Democracy in an International Context	+ 1 individual presentation
11) Environmental Democracy in a South American Context	+ 1 individual presentation
12) How the psychology of sustainability was already implement on South American Constitutional law	+ 1 individual presentation
13) Analysis on the Constitution of Argentina, of Brazil, of Bolivia, of Chile,	
14) Analysis on the Constitution of Colombia, of Ecuador, Venezuela	
15) Final exam	