

Opasraportti

Environmental Studies in the Humanities (2015 - 2016)

Environmental Humanities

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Admission requirements

Environmental Studies in the Humanities is open to all students presently registered and enrolled at the University.

Study guidance

Study guidance is provided by Academy Research Fellow Esa Ruuskanen, tel. +358 29 448 3229, esa.ruuskanen@oulu.fi

The Environmental Humanities

Environmental research has its beginnings in the Natural Sciences, originally studying the negative effects of human activity on the natural environment. It might be argued that the main emphasis of that research was on analysing the environmental impacts of human activities in the context of natural phenomena. The traditional approach was largely a diagnostic one: identifying and describing environmental risks and searching for technological remedies. Environmental Studies changed greatly with the arrival of the Humanities and Social Sciences into the field of research. This new combination of fields has begun to describe and explore the cultural and social causes behind environmental problems, and has also strived to understand culturally bound relationships of humans with nature more deeply. At this point, the Environmental Humanities have an important role in addressing environmental problems and sustainable values, as well as in taking part in the current scientific and societal debate on the environment.

Common topics of the Environmental Humanities have been subjects such as the concept of nature in different cultures, the values placed on nature, ethical principles, and analyses of different forms of interaction between culture and nature in the past. Efforts have also been made to combine the needs of protecting cultural heritage and the needs of environmental protection.

In the University of Oulu, the Environmental Humanities have been taught as of 2005. It combines teaching and research from many study programmes and faculties. The co-operation between Philosophy, History, Cultural Anthropology, Cultural Geography, Cultural Studies, as well as environmental approaches in Sociology and Communication form the basis for the studies.

The Environmental Humanities form an important part of the multifaceted training of environmental specialists and researchers. Understanding environmental problems and addressing them requires a humanistic view of the diversity

of the field. Natural phenomena, social customs, economics, technology, cultural concepts and values are all interrelated. For this reason, even at the onset of the studies the aim is strong multidisciplinary expertise and development of critical thinking. The Environmental Humanities complement the expertise provided by main subjects, which makes finding employment easier for the graduates.

The Environmental Humanities provide the students with complementary skills needed in, for example, communications, specialist or administrative positions in environmental administration, companies, and environmental organisations, as well as skills needed in professions in the fields of science and the media.

Practical Information

Studies in the Environmental Humanities are mostly carried out via independent study. Compulsory courses are *Introduction to the Environmental Humanities* (5 ECTS credits) and *Environmental Values and Environmental Ethics* (5 ECTS credits). Other courses may be chosen freely, forming a Basic Studies package of between 25 and 35 ECTS credits.

When signing up for a course, students must mention that they want to compile the course as a part of the Environmental Humanities degree. The same course cannot be used to further studies in two different study programmes. In unclear cases, it is best to consult the person responsible for the course. Information on possible alternative literature for a course can be obtained from the persons responsible for the course.

Learning outcomes

Upon completing the study package, students will have the ability to define the central views of the Environmental Humanities concerning environmental problems and values, and the multifaceted interaction between cultures and nature in present and historical contexts.

Courses

Basic Studies, 25–35 ECTS credits

Compulsory Courses, 10 ECTS cr:

687810P Introduction to the Environmental Humanities, 5 ECTS credits

687811P Environmental Values and Environmental Ethics, 5 ECTS credits

Optional Courses, students select 15–25 ECTS credits of the following:

687812P Environmental Philosophy, 5 ECTS credits

687809P Environmental and Climate History, 5 ECTS credits

687813P Energy and the Environment, 5 ECTS credits

687814P The Environment (and Indigenous Peoples) of the Arctic, 5 ECTS credits

687804P History of Environmental Sciences, 5 ECTS credits

790161A Tourism, Sustainability and the Northern Environment, 5 ECTS credits

687815P Environmental Communication, 5 ECTS credits

687816P Ecocritical Approaches to Literature, 5 ECTS credits

414081P Sociological Approaches to Environmental Research, 5 ECTS credits

687363P Humans and the Environment, 5 ECTS credits

687817P Skills for Working Life, 5 ECTS credits

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomat opintokokonaisuudet ja -jaksot

687816P: Ecocritical Approaches to Literature, 5 op

687813P: Energy and the Environment, 5 op

687815P: Environmental Communication, 5 op

687812P: Environmental Philosophy, 5 op

687811P: Environmental Values and Environmental Ethics, 5 op

687809P: Environmental and Climate History, 5 op

687804P: History of Environmental Sciences, 5 op

687363P: Humans and the Environment, 5 op

687810P: Introduction to the Environmental Humanities, 5 op

687817P: Skills for Working Life, 5 op

414081P: Sociological environment research, 5 op

687814P: The Environment (and Indigenous Peoples) of the Arctic, 5 op

790161A: Tourism, sustainability and environment, 5 op

Opintojaksojen kuvaukset

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomien opintokokonaisuuksien ja -jaksojen kuvaukset

687816P: Ecocritical Approaches to Literature, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2015 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:

5 ECTS

Language of instruction:

Finnish

687813P: Energy and the Environment, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2015 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

5 ECTS

Language of instruction:

Finnish

687815P: Environmental Communication, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2015 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:

5 ECTS

Language of instruction:

Finnish

687812P: Environmental Philosophy, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2015 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

5 ECTS

Language of instruction:

Finnish

687811P: Environmental Values and Environmental Ethics, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2015 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

5 ECTS

Language of instruction:
Finnish

687809P: Environmental and Climate History, 5 op

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Matti Enbuske

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Leikkaavuudet:

ay687809P Environmental and Climate History (OPEN UNI) 5.0 op

ECTS Credits:

5 ECTS

Language of instruction:

Finnish

687804P: History of Environmental Sciences, 5 op

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Esa Ruuskanen

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

5 ECTS

Language of instruction:

Finnish

687363P: Humans and the Environment, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2015 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Heikkinen, Hannu Ilmari

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Leikkaavuudet:

ay687363P Humans and the Environment (OPEN UNI) 5.0 op

ECTS Credits:

5 ECTS credits

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Timing:

1st year

Learning outcomes:

Students will be able to define the relationship between protecting cultural heritage and protecting the environment. Students will also be able explain the fundamentals of the interaction between people and the environment, as well as the fundamentals of the concept of nature from a chronological perspective. Students will be able to discuss how specific cultures have adapted to their environments. Students will also be able to define human being's relation to animals and to their immediate environment. In addition, students will be able to define the cultural factors that control these relations. Students will also be able to discuss contemporary environmental questions and their effects on local communities.

Contents:

Examining the relation between the protection of environment and the protection of cultural heritage in the context of cultural anthropology and archaeology; learning about the ways in which different civilisations and communities have reacted to change in the environment in a global context; examining the climate change from the chronological perspective provided by archaeology and cultural anthropology; studying interaction between humans, animals and nature; familiarising with the central concepts and perspectives of contemporary research in environmental anthropology

Mode of delivery:

Contact teaching

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Lectures, written assignments or exercises

Target group:

First-year students of Cultural Anthropology and Archaeology

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

None

Recommended optional programme components:

None

Recommended or required reading:

Material handed out during lectures

Assessment methods and criteria:

Assignments on lectures and formal lecture examination or written assignments or exercises

Grading:

0–5

Person responsible:

Professor Hannu I. Heikkinen

Working life cooperation:

None

687810P: Introduction to the Environmental Humanities, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2015 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

5 ECTS

Language of instruction:

Finnish

687817P: Skills for Working Life, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2015 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:

5 ECTS

Language of instruction:

Finnish

414081P: Sociological environment research, 5 op**Voimassaolo:** 01.08.2014 -**Opiskelumuoto:** Basic Studies**Laji:** Course**Vastuuyksikkö:** Faculty of Education**Arvostelu:** 1 - 5, pass, fail**Opettajat:** Marjo Laitala**Opintokohteen kielet:** Finnish**Leikkaavuudet:**

ay414081P Sociological environment research (OPEN UNI) 5.0 op

ECTS Credits:

5 ECTS cr

Language of instruction:

Finnish (can be replaced with English literature)

Timing:

Autumn and spring term

Learning outcomes:

The student familiarises her/himself with important current studies in sociological environmental research. Having completed the course, the student has a mastery of the main concepts, theoretical tradition and current research in this field. The student knows how to use this knowledge in research and practical working duties and how to take part in societal discussion on the theme.

Contents:

This course introduces the student to sociological environmental research.

Mode of delivery:

Face-to-face teaching

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Book exam, substitutive lectures as far as possible

Target group:

Students pursuing Basic Studies in Sociology

Recommended optional programme components:

An elective 5-credit course

Recommended or required reading:

Optional literature (three of the following):

Autti, O. 2013. Valtavirta muutoksessa. Vesivoima ja paikalliset asukkaat Kemijoella. Oulun yliopiston tutkijakoulu; Oulun yliopisto, Kasvatustieteiden tiedekunta; Thule-instituutti Acta Universitatis Ouluensis E 136. Oulu: Oulun yliopisto. Url: <http://urn.fi/urn:isbn:9789526202396>

Konttinen, E. & Peltokoski, J. 2004. Ympäristöprotestin neljäs aalto: eläinoikeusliike ja uuden polven ympäristöradikalismi 1990-luvulla. Jyväskylä: Jyväskylän yliopisto, Minerva.

Lehtinen, A. & Rannikko, P. (Eds.) 2003. Oikeudenmukaisuus ja ympäristö. Helsinki: Gaudeamus.

Massa, I. & Ahonen, S. (Eds.) 2006. Arkielämän ympäristöpolitiikka. Helsinki: Gaudeamus.

Valkonen, J. (2010) Ympäristösosiologia. Helsinki: WSOY.

You can check for the availability of the course books [here](#)

Grading:

Pass/fail

Person responsible:

Outi Autti

Working life cooperation:

None

687814P: The Environment (and Indigenous Peoples) of the Arctic, 5 op

Voimassaolo: 01.08.2015 -

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

5 ECTS

Language of instruction:

Finnish

790161A: Tourism, sustainability and environment, 5 op

Opiskelumuoto: Intermediate Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Field of Geography

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Kaarina Tervo-Kankare

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Leikkaavuudet:

ay790161A Tourism, sustainability and environment (OPEN UNI) 4.0 op

ECTS Credits:

5 ECTS

Language of instruction:

Finnish and English.

Timing:

2nd year, 1st semester (autumn semester)

Learning outcomes:

After the course student can define the role of the sustainable development for tourism industry and he/she can evaluate and verify different impacts of the tourism for sustainable development.

Contents:

Special questions of the sustainable development in the field of tourism research.

Mode of delivery:

Face-to-face learning

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Lectures, self study, group work, web-based work, essay. To be confirmed at the first lecture.

Target group:

Students of geography who will specialize to Tourism Geography.

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

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Recommended optional programme components:

Course is part of minor studies tourism geography.

Recommended or required reading:

- Fennel, David A (1999 or later version). Ecotourism – an introduction (partly).
- Articles (announced during lectures).

Assessment methods and criteria:

Written exam on exam day.

Read more about [assessment criteria](#) at the University of Oulu webpage.

Grading:

1–5.

Person responsible:

Kaarina Tervo-Kankare

Working life cooperation:

No.

