

Opasraportti

Environmental Studies in the Humanities (2013 - 2014)

Environmental Studies in the Humanities

Address: Environmental Studies in the Humanities, P.O.Box 1000, FI-90014, University of Oulu, Finland

Telephone: study counsellor +358 29 448 3321 (University Lecturer Jari Okkonen), Academic Affairs Secretary +358 29 448 3400 (Helena Karjalainen)

Email: jari.okkonen@oulu.fi

Website: <http://www.oulu.fi/hutk/ymparistoopinnot>

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 University Lecturer Jari Okkonen, tel. +358 29 448 3321, jari.okkonen@oulu.fi

Environmental Studies in the 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 the discipline was on studying the environmental impact of man 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 discipline. 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 man's culturally bound relationship with nature more deeply. At this point, many have realised that Humanistic Sciences have an important role in solving current environmental problems and in protecting the environment. From a humanistic viewpoint man is an essential part of the environment.

Common topics of environmental research in the 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. There have always been environmental problems caused by human activity, and they have even led into the downfall of entire civilizations. On the other hand, special focus is placed on understanding the reasons behind the modern environmental crisis: what is wrong with the modern Western relationship with nature? A number of interrelated factors have been identified that have brought our relation with nature to a crisis: among others, the modern view of nature as simply a tool or raw materials for economic growth. The humanistic view of nature seeks sensible alternatives to this tradition, which could lead to a more sustainable way of life. This means the search for new, ecologically sustainable values on which to base our actions in everyday life and in the spheres of economics and technology. Efforts have also been made to combine the needs of protecting cultural heritage and environmental protection. Cultural sustainability is seen as an important part of sustainable development, and, accordingly, preservation of cultural diversity is a central tenet from the viewpoint of sustainable development. In order to create favourable social and cultural conditions for promoting ecological sustainability, it is essential to preserve cultural diversity, cultural heritage, and cultural identity. For these reasons, Environmental Studies in the Humanities forms 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.

Practical information

Environmental Studies in the Humanities studies are mostly carried out via independent study; the introductory lecture course represents most of the available lectures. Other studies may be chosen freely, forming a Basic Studies package of between 25 and 35 ECTS credits. When signing up for courses, students should indicate that they are studying Environmental Studies in the Humanities as a subsidiary subject (minor). 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 person responsible for the course.

Courses and learning outcomes

Upon completing the study package in Environmental Studies in the Humanities, students have the knowledge to define the central views of Humanistic Sciences regarding environmental problems and the interaction between culture and nature. Students know the main approaches of Environmental Sciences and Environmental Philosophy, can use values to analyse the human relation with nature, and can define the relationship of man and environment in different time periods. It could be said that the main goal of the studies is transcending the polarity of culture and nature, and thus attaining a critical ability to apply Natural and Humanistic Science in theoretical and practical solutions for environmental questions.

Courses

Basic Studies (25–35 ECTS credits)

687800P Introduction to Environmental Studies in the Humanities (3 ECTS credits)

Environmental Philosophy (3–8 ECTS credits)

687801P Introduction to Environmental Philosophy (5 ECTS credits)

687802P Environmental Ethics (3 ECTS credits)

Environmental History (3–13 ECTS credits)

687803P Environmental and Climate History (5 ECTS credits)

687804P History of Environmental Sciences (5 ECTS credits)

687807P History of Environmental Conservation (3 ECTS credits)

Environment and Culture (3–11 ECTS credits)

687806P Cultural Ecology (5 ECTS credits)

687805P Cultural Heritage and Its Conservation (3 ECTS credits)

687808P Views on Diversity (3 ECTS credits)

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomat opintokokonaisuudet ja -jaksot

687806P: Cultural Ecology, 5 op

687805P: Cultural Heritage and Its Conservation, 3 op

687802P: Environmental Ethics, 3 op

687809P: Environmental and Climate History, 5 op
 687807P: History of Environmental Conservation, 3 op
 687804P: History of Environmental Sciences, 5 op
 687801P: Introduction to Environmental Philosophy, 5 op
 687800P: Introduction to Environmental Studies in the Humanities, 3 op
 687808P: Views on Diversity, 3 op

Opintojaksojen kuvaukset

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomien opintokokonaisuuksien ja -jaksojen kuvaukset

687806P: Cultural Ecology, 5 op

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Anneli Meriläinen-Hyvärinen

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

5

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Timing:

free

Learning outcomes:

Upon completing the course, students can explain and define the basics of cultural Ecology.

Contents:

The interaction between man and nature from the viewpoint of cultural anthropology, and the effect of the environment on culture and its changes

Mode of delivery:

Self study or contact teaching

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Independent study or lectures

Target group:

Students of Environmental Studies in the Humanities

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

None

Recommended optional programme components:

None

Recommended or required reading:

Julian H. Steward, Theory of Culture Change;

Nora Haenn & Richard R. Wilk (eds.), The Environment in Anthropology (pp. 1–301)

Assessment methods and criteria:

Book exam or substitutive lectures

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

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

University Lecturer Anneli Meriläinen-Hyvärinen

Working life cooperation:

No

687805P: Cultural Heritage and Its Conservation, 3 op

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Okkonen, Jari Pekka

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

5

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Timing:

free

Learning outcomes:

Upon completing the course, students know the basic concepts of the study and protection of the cultural heritage and understand the meaning of the context of the cultural heritage process.

Contents:

The principles, values and agreements guiding the conservation of cultural heritage, land use and relics, objects of cultural heritage as part of the environment

Mode of delivery:

Self study or contact teaching

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Book exam and/or lectures

Target group:

Students of Environmental Studies in the Humanities

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

None

Recommended optional programme components:

None

Recommended or required reading:

Robin Skeates, Debating the Archaeological Heritage;

Laurajane Smith & Emma Waterton, Heritage, Communities and Archaeology

Assessment methods and criteria:

Book exam or substitutive lectures

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

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

University Lecturer Jari Okkonen

Working life cooperation:

No

687802P: Environmental Ethics, 3 op

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Väyrynen, Kari Antero

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:

3

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Timing:

free

Learning outcomes:

Upon completing the course, students understand different views of environmental values and environmental ethics.

Contents:

Introduction to Environmental Ethics

Mode of delivery:

Self study or contact teaching

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Book exam and/or lectures

Target group:

Students of Environmental Studies in the Humanities

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

None

Recommended optional programme components:

None

Recommended or required reading:Arto Haapala & Markku Oksanen (eds.), *Arvot ja luonnon arvottaminen* (or in lectures)**Assessment methods and criteria:**

Book exam or substitutive lectures

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

0-5

Person responsible:

University Lecturer Kari Väyrynen

Working life cooperation:

No

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

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Timing:

free

Learning outcomes:

Upon completing the course, students know the effects of social, political and economical actions on the environment and nature throughout history. Students can also define the central characteristics of climate history and estimate the effects of changes in the climate on human cultures in history. Students can compare environmental history processes in different parts of the world and explain their cause/effect relation.

Contents:

The various stages of environmental history, from prehistory to modern day

Mode of delivery:

Self study or contact teaching

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Book exam and/or lectures

Target group:

Students of Environmental Studies in the Humanities

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

None

Recommended optional programme components:

None

Recommended or required reading:

Clive Ponting, A New Green History of the World (2007);

Brian Fagan, The Little Ice Age: How Climate Made History (2002)

Assessment methods and criteria:

Book exam or substitutive lectures

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

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

University Lecturer Matti Enbuske

Working life cooperation:

No

687807P: History of Environmental Conservation, 3 op

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Matti Enbuske

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

ECTS Credits:

3

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Timing:

free

Learning outcomes:

Upon completing the course, students can define the central periods of environmental conservation and environmental administration in Finland. Students can also explain the most significant environmental problems, and can estimate the significance of environmental conservation and environmental administration on the state of nature in Finland and globally.

Contents:

Phenomena in nature and environmental conservation

Mode of delivery:

Self study or contact teaching

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Book exam and/or lectures

Target group:

Students of Environmental Studies in the Humanities

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

None

Recommended optional programme components:

None

Recommended or required reading:

Jari Lyytimäki & Harri Hakala, Ympäristön tila ja suojelu Suomessa (2nd edition, 2008);

Simo Laakkonen, Sari Laurila & Marjatta Rahikainen (eds.), Harmaat aallot: Ympäristönsuojelun tulo Suomeen

Assessment methods and criteria:

Book exam or substitutive lectures

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

Grading:

0–5

Person responsible:

University Lecturer Matti Enbuske

Working life cooperation:

No

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

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Timing:

free

Learning outcomes:

Upon completing the course, students learn about the development of the Natural Sciences central to environmental research and the background of the modern Natural Sciences-based environmental research.

Contents:

Study of the history of environmental sciences

Mode of delivery:

Self study or contact teaching

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Book exam and/or lectures

Target group:

Students of Environmental Studies in the Humanities

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

None

Recommended optional programme components:

None

Recommended or required reading:

Peter J. Bowler, The Norton History of the Environmental Sciences

Assessment methods and criteria:

Book exam or substitutive lectures

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

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

University Lecturer Kari Väyrynen

Working life cooperation:

No

687801P: Introduction to Environmental Philosophy, 5 op

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Väyrynen, Kari Antero

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

5

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Timing:

free

Learning outcomes:

Upon completing the course, students understand the main features of the central trends and problems in Environmental Philosophy.

Contents:

Introduction to Environmental Philosophy and its basic concepts

Mode of delivery:

Self study or contact teaching

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Book exam and/or lectures

Target group:

Students of Environmental Studies in the Humanities

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

None

Recommended optional programme components:

None

Recommended or required reading:

Markku Oksanen & Marjo Rauhala-Hayes (eds.), Ympäristöfilosofia; Jussi Kotkavirta (ed.), Luonnon luonto: filosofisia kirjoituksia luonnon käsitteestä ja kokemisesta

Assessment methods and criteria:

Book exam or substitutive lectures

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

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

University Lecturer Kari Väyrynen

Working life cooperation:

No

687800P: Introduction to Environmental Studies in the Humanities, 3 op

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Okkonen, Jari Pekka

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

3

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Timing:

Preferably taken as the first course in Environmental Studies in the Humanities

Learning outcomes:

Upon completing the course, students recognize the central concepts related to humanistic research of the environment and the view of Humanistic Sciences on environmental conservation.

Contents:

Introduction to environmental research and environmental protection from the viewpoint of Humanistic Sciences

Mode of delivery:

Contact teaching

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Lecture series and online exercises

Target group:

Students of Environmental Studies in the Humanities

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

None

Recommended optional programme components:

None

Recommended or required reading:

Material handed out in lectures

Assessment methods and criteria:

Online exercises

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

Pass/fail

Person responsible:

University Lecturer Jari Okkonen

Working life cooperation:

No

687808P: Views on Diversity, 3 op**Opiskelumuoto:** Basic Studies**Laji:** Course**Vastuuyksikkö:** Faculty of Humanities**Arvostelu:** 1 - 5, pass, fail**Opettajat:** Okkonen, Jari Pekka**Opintokohteen kielet:** Finnish**Voidaan suorittaa useasti:** Kyllä**ECTS Credits:**

3

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Timing:

free

Learning outcomes:

Upon completing the course, students recognize different research perspectives on biological and cultural diversity. Students can also recognize different research methods and compare them.

Contents:

Introduction to research on biological diversity and its concepts, and to diversity of nature and culture

Mode of delivery:

Contact teaching or self study

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Lectures and instructed outdoor exercises

Target group:

Students of Environmental Studies in the Humanities

Prerequisites and co-requisites:

None

Recommended optional programme components:

None

Recommended or required reading:

Material handed out during the course

Assessment methods and criteria:

Field course, substitutive lectures, or book exam

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

0-5

Person responsible:

University Lecturer Jari Okkonen

Working life cooperation:

No

Other information:

Arranged in co-operation with the Department of Biology

