

Opasraportti

HuTK - Humanistic Environmental Studies 2009-2011 (2009 - 2011)

Environmental Studies in the Humanities

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Overview of the subject

Early environmental research began within the Natural Sciences, concentrating on the detrimental impacts of human activity on nature, and it may be said that the main emphasis ever since has been on describing environmental problems within the field of natural phenomena. The approach has been largely a diagnostic one, involving the identification and description of environmental risks and the search for technical remedies.

More recently, however, the Humanities and Social Sciences have come into the picture, and the first steps have been taken towards describing and explaining the cultural and social reasons for environmental problems and achieving a deeper understanding of man's culturally bound relation to nature. It is at this point that people have realized that the Humanities and Social Sciences can play an important part in solving our current environmental problems and in protecting the environment. From a humanistic viewpoint man is a part of the environment.

The topics of environmental research within the Humanities to date have included the concepts of nature in different cultures, the values placed on nature, ethical principles related to it and analyses of the forms of interaction between culture and nature in the past. There have always been environmental risks attached to human activities, even to the point of destroying great civilizations. At the same time, particular attention is being drawn to the reasons for the current environmental crisis. What is wrong with our western attitude towards nature at the present time? A number of interrelated factors have been identified that have brought our relation with nature to this crisis point, including the view, arising out of our modern culture, that nature is no more than a tool at our disposal and raw material to serve the purposes of economic growth.

The humanistic view of nature obliges us to search for rational alternatives to this tradition, alternatives that could guide us towards a more sustainable way of life. This is in effect a search for ecologically valid values on which to base our actions in everyday life and in the spheres of economics and technology. Efforts are also being made to combine the demands of nature conservation with those of the protection of our cultural heritage. Cultural sustainability is looked on as an important aspect of sustainable development, the preservation of cultural diversity being one of its central tenets. In order to create favourable social and cultural conditions for promoting ecological sustainability, it is essential to preserve cultural diversity, the cultural heritage and a cultural identity.

It is for these reasons that Environmental Studies in the Humanities form an important part of the broad-based basic training required of environmental specialists and researchers. The understanding of environmental issues to the point of being able to intervene in them calls for a humanistic view of their multidimensional character. Natural phenomena, social customs, economics, technology, cultural concepts and values are all interrelated, and thus it is justifiable to aim at a sound interdisciplinary foundation and the development of a synthetic way of thinking at an early stage in these studies.

Admission requirements and commencement of studies

All students of the University who are registered as attending at the present time are entitled to pursue Environmental Studies in the Humanities.

Study Counselling

Counselling in Environmental Studies in the Humanities is given by Jari Okkonen, Lecturer in Archaeology, tel. +358-8-553 3321, jari.okkonen@oulu.fi

Instruction

The programme of Environmental Studies in the Humanities is mainly based on independent reading. The only compulsory lecture course is the introductory one, the rest of the Basic Studies being based optionally on modules of either 25 or 35 credits. When registering, students should indicate that they are working for the programme in Environmental Studies in the Humanities, as the same course cannot then be incorporated into any other study programme. In cases of doubt it is best to consult the person responsible for the module in question. Counselling in Environmental Studies in the Humanities is given by Jari Okkonen, Lecturer in Archaeology, tel. +358-8-553 3321. Details of required reading can be obtained from the person responsible for each particular course.

Courses

Basic Studies 25-35 credits

1. 687800P Introduction to Environmental Studies in the Humanities 2 credits
2. Environmental Philosophy 3-8 credits
 - 687801P Introduction to Environmental Philosophy 5 credits
 - 687802P Environmental Ethics 3 credits
3. Environmental History 3-8 credits
 - 687803P Global Environmental History 3 credits
 - 687804P History of the Environmental Sciences 5 credits
4. Environment and Culture 5-10 credits
 - 687805P The Cultural Heritage and its Conservation 5 credits
 - 687806P Cultural Ecology 5 credits
5. Elective environmental studies 5-7 credits

Tutkintorakenteisiin kuulumattomat opintokokonaisuudet ja -jaksot

- 687806P: Cultural Ecology, 5 op
- 687805P: Cultural Heritage and Its Conservation, 3 op
- 687802P: Environmental Ethics, 3 op
- 687803P: Global Environmental History, 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

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 credits

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Learning outcomes:

Students should have a command of the fundamentals of cultural ecology.

Contents:

Interaction between man and the environment from the perspective of cultural anthropology, and the influence of the environment on culture and cultural changes.

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Independent study and/or lectures

Assessment methods and criteria:

Examination on books to be agreed on with the person responsible for the module, or the equivalent lectures

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

Anneli Meriläinen-Hyvärinen, Cultural Anthropology

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 credits

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Learning outcomes:

Students should have a command of the basic concepts related to the study and conservation of the cultural heritage, and they should understand the significance of context for the formation of the cultural heritage.

Contents:

Principles, values and agreements governing the conservation and management of the cultural heritage, land use and ancient monuments, cultural heritage sites as parts of the landscape.

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Independent study and/or lectures

Assessment methods and criteria:

Examination on the books Skeates: Debating the Archaeological Heritage, Smith & Waterton: Heritage, Communities and Archaeology, and Lounatvuori & Putkonen (eds.): Rakennusperintömme, or others by prior arrangement.

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

Jari Okkonen, Archaeology

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 credits

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Learning outcomes:

Students should have an understanding of environmental values and ethics from various viewpoints.

Contents:

The elements of environmental ethics

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Independent study and/or lectures

Assessment methods and criteria:

Examination on the book Haapala & Oksanen (eds.): Arvot ja luonnon arvottaminen, or the equivalent lectures

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

Kari Väyrynen, Philosophy

687803P: Global Environmental History, 3 op

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Matti Enbuske

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

3-8 credits

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Learning outcomes:

Students should be able to explain and describe the interaction between man and the environment on a global scale, particularly with respect to the influence of human activity on the environment.

Contents:

The elements of environmental history

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Independent study and/or lectures

Assessment methods and criteria:

Examination on the book Ponting: A New Green History of the World - The Environment and the Collapse of the Great Civilisations, or the equivalent lectures

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

Markku Mäkivuoti, History

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 credits

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Learning outcomes:

Students should become acquainted with the history of the main natural sciences of relevance to the environment and about the background to modern environmental research in the natural sciences.

Contents:

An introduction to the history of environmental sciences

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Independent study or lectures

Assessment methods and criteria:

Examination on the book Bowler: Ympäristötieteiden historia, or the equivalent lectures

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

Kari Väyrynen, Philosophy

687801P: Introduction to Environmental Philosophy, 5 op

Opiskelumuoto: Basic Studies

Laji: Course

Vastuuyksikkö: Faculty of Humanities

Arvostelu: 1 - 5, pass, fail

Opettajat: Mari-Anne Virkkala

Opintokohteen kielet: Finnish

Voidaan suorittaa useasti: Kyllä

ECTS Credits:

5 credits

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Learning outcomes:

Students should have an understanding of the main problems addressed by environmental philosophy and the outlines of the principle schools of thought within the subject.

Contents:

Presentation of environmental philosophy and the main concepts employed in it

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Independent study and/or lectures

Assessment methods and criteria:

Examination on the books Oksanen (ed.): Ympäristö#loso#a, and Kotkavirta (ed.): Luonnon luonto, or the equivalent lectures

Grading:

0-5

Person responsible:

Kari Väyrynen, Philosophy

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:

2 credits

Language of instruction:

Finnish

Learning outcomes:

Students should have an understanding of environmental research and conservation from the perspective of the humanities.

Contents:

Lectures presenting environment research from the perspective of the humanities

Learning activities and teaching methods:

Lecture course

Assessment methods and criteria:

Written examination

Grading:

Pass/fail

Person responsible:

Jari Okkonen, Archaeology