EDST 588 (022): ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY AND EDUCATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

"Environmental Philosophy and Education" is an elective graduate seminar open to all Master's and Doctoral students. Prior knowledge of philosophy is not required. The course will address philosophical questions in and about environmental education. Philosophical questions can be raised about the term "environmental education" itself, so it is used here as shorthand for approaches ranging from more conventional forms of sustainability education, to more radical forms of education aiming for ecological justice. The course is organized around six themes, each of which raises philosophical questions, such as:

- How do different understandings of place shape place-based education?
- What is ecological justice and how does it intersect with decolonization and other efforts to achieve social justice?
- Is it ethical to curtail human autonomy for the sake of ecological sustainability?
- How do love, hope, grief, anger, fear, disgust and other feelings help or hinder environmental ethics and politics?
- What are the benefits and drawbacks of deliberative and agonistic approaches to environmental politics?
- How does posthumanist theory reshape understandings of environmental education?

The course is designed to offer opportunities to:

1. identify and critically assess key assumptions and concepts underpinning various approaches to environmental education;
2. develop a better understanding of the ideas and values informing your own assumptions about environmental education;
3. explore key debates in environmental ethics and politics.

ASSIGNMENTS

Documentary review (30%)
Philosophical blog posts (2 x 15%)
Argumentative essay (40%)

LOGISTICS

Web-based course, with two-hour synchronous Zoom seminars on Thursdays (4:30-6:30pm), supported by asynchronous activities. All readings for the course are provided through the UBC Library Online Course Reserves (LOCR), accessible via the course Canvas site.

CONTACT

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