

CPSY 598 Topics in Applied Ecopsychology: Social and Environmental Justice

Lewis and Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling

Summer 2012

Instructor: Tod Sloan, Ph.D. Office: Rogers 433, by appt. Email: sloan@lclark.edu

Catalog description: This course provides opportunities to explore the roles of a counselors and therapists as advocates, consultants, or researchers in the field of ecopsychology. Topic varies from semester to semester.

Course overview: This version of the course focuses on how political economy, psyche, and nature are intertwined, with an eye to understanding problems of social and environmental justice from multiple perspectives. Emphasis is on articulating one's own integrated perspective and designing effective strategies for personal engagement in change projects at the community level.

Course Requirements and Grading:

1. Participation in seminar discussions – preparation, seriousness, curiosity (20%)
2. Presentation on an environmental justice project (20%)
3. Reflection essay (1000 words): Describe a sector of social or environmental justice that especially concerns you. How did this come to be so important to you? How do you analyze the major problems and issues in this sector? What solutions do you see and, given your skills, personality, and political leanings, how could you be part of the solution? What are the strengths and weaknesses of your plan?
-- Submit by email to sloan@lclark.edu by June 3 (60%)

Course Schedule:

Overview of social and environmental justice; contemporary political economy; radical ecopsychology

Dialogue with a director of an environmental justice non-profit

Dialogue with a global justice activist

Dialogue with a community organizer and social ecologist in an intentional community and sustainability demonstration center

Psychosocial aspects of eco-activism

Relevant Readings:

Andy Fisher (2012). *Radical ecopsychology*. 2nd edition.

David Kidner (2001). *Nature and psyche: Radical environmentalism and the politics of subjectivity*.

Joel Kovel (2002). *The enemy of nature: The end of capitalism or the end of the world?*

Hillary Rettig (2006). *The lifelong activist*.

Matt Soltys (2012). *Tangled roots: Dialogues exploring ecological justice, healing, and decolonization*.