

23rd International Project Week **12th – 16th July 2021**

Lecturer: Corinna Casi

University/Company: Arbis (Swedish Adult Education Centre)

Country: Finland

Introduction to environmental ethics

Content:

The course will propose an overview on the history of Environmental Ethics: what is ethics, what is environment, what was Environmental Ethics, how and why has environmental Ethics emerged as an academic field?

Why is ethics important in the modern world and why should ethics be part of a policy-making process? In an attempt to answer these questions, ethical concepts - such as intrinsic and instrumental value, anthropocentrism and ecocentrism - together with different types of Environmental Ethics theories - such as Deep Ecology, Ecofeminism, Land Ethics, Utilitarianism, Gaia Theory, Nature conservation movement and Animal Rights - will be introduced and discussed. The applicability of different ethical theories will be tested in light of selected case studies about natural disasters and environmental accidents.

Methods:

Lectures, debates in class and screening of parts of documentary movies, reading newspaper articles, home assignments and final poster presentation on the last day of IPW.

Competences and skills to be acquired:

This course attempts to give students an analytical apparatus to critically analyze the role played by the natural environment in the life of humans and other living species. The course makes students familiar with basic concepts and theories of Environmental Ethics, fostering the understanding of how humans weigh and carry responsibility for environmental problems. Students will be trained to see different perspectives, applying moral theories and drawing ethical conclusions from real-life cases in recent news. This enables the students to confront their opinions in-class debates, better understand themselves and colleagues, and to improve discussion, argumentation and group work skills.

Prerequisites:

No prerequisites needed (previous knowledge in philosophy, ethics and social sciences are helpful)

Language of instruction:

English

Recommended for:

Interdisciplinary