

# HELSINKI SUMMER SCHOOL

## ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS IN OUR TIME: PHILOSOPHY AND CHALLENGES

### ORGANISER

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES,  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

**DATES** 7.8.-23.8.2018

**PRICE** [HELSINKISUMMERSCHOOL.FI/PRICES/](https://www.helsinki.fi/summer-school/prices/)

**CREDITS** 5 ECTS

**COORDINATOR** CORINNA CASI

### SYNOPSIS

THIS COURSE IS AN INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AS A PHILOSOPHICAL DISCIPLINE HELPFUL TO ANALYSING ENVIRONMENTAL CASE STUDIES. THE COURSE AIMS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE FUNDAMENTAL AND ETHICAL ROLE OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN OUR LIVES. THE THEORETICAL PART OF THE COURSE INTRODUCES PHILOSOPHICAL ETHICAL THEORIES AND CONCEPTS, WHILE A MORE PRACTICAL SECTION PRESENTS REAL CASE STUDIES AND ETHICAL NOTIONS FROM DIFFERENT VIEWPOINTS.

WHY IS ETHICS IMPORTANT IN THE MODERN WORLD AND WHY SHOULD ETHICS BE PART OF POLICY-MAKING PROCESSES? IN AN ATTEMPT TO ANSWER SUCH QUESTIONS, THE COURSE WILL DISCUSS ETHICAL CONCEPTS - SUCH AS INTRINSIC AND INSTRUMENTAL VALUE, ANTHROPOCENTRISM, ECOCENTRISM, AND CONCERN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS - TOGETHER WITH DIFFERENT TYPES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS THEORIES - INCLUDING DEEP ECOLOGY, UTILITARIANISM, GAIA THEORY, ARISTOTELIAN VIRTUE ETHICS, DEONTOLOGICAL ETHICS, ECOFEMINISM, LAND ETHICS AND ANIMAL RIGHTS.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

THIS COURSE ATTEMPTS TO GIVE STUDENTS THE ANALYTICAL APPARATUS TO CRITICALLY ANALYSE THE ROLE PLAYED BY THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE LIFE OF HUMANS AND OTHER LIVING SPECIES. THE COURSE FAMILIARISES THE STUDENTS WITH BASIC CONCEPTS AND THEORIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS, FOSTERING AN UNDERSTANDING ON HOW HUMAN FACTORS WEIGH AND CARRY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

THE STUDENTS WILL BE TRAINED TO SEE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES, TO APPLY MORAL THEORIES AND DRAW ETHICAL CONCLUSIONS FROM REAL-LIFE CASES IN RECENT NEWS. THIS ENABLES THE STUDENTS TO CONFRONT THEIR VIEWS IN CLASS DEBATES, TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEMSELVES, CLASSMATES AND FUTURE WORK COLLEAGUES AS CITIZENS OF THE SAME WORLD. THE COURSE IS ALSO DESIGNED TO TRAIN THE STUDENTS' SKILLS IN DISCUSSIONS, ARGUMENTATION, GROUP WORK AND PRESENTATIONS.

### COURSE FORMAT AND TEACHING METHODS

LECTURES, IN-CLASS GROUP WORK, SCREENING OF SCENES FROM DOCUMENTARY MOVIES AND DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THE CLASS. SMALL GROUP TASKS (IN CLASS AND AT HOME) ARE DESIGNED TO ACQUAINT THE STUDENTS WITH ETHICAL CONCEPTS AND THEORIES, AND TO TRAIN THEM TO APPLY THOSE THEORIES TO NATURAL DISASTERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CASE STUDIES.

### LECTURER

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### MORE INFORMATION?

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