"What is life?
It is the flash of a firefly in the night.
It is the breath of a buffalo in the winter time;
It is the little shadow which runs across the grass
and loses itself in the sunset." (Crowfoot)

Instructor: Dr. Tom Puk
Class: Biosphere (starts BL 1022)
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Winter Term
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The process for the course is designed to be emergent, organic and based on
elements of the honey beehive as a superorganism (Holldobler, B., & Wilson)
and on Ficino’s concept of convivium (Moore). The course complements 4284YA
and 3218WA. Students as a whole class must identify one theme and project
that has a strong emphasis promoting ecological literacy and ecological
consciousness through service to others, consistent with 4284ya content and
philosophy. The project should serve the greatest good, given the parameters
of the course. The class must:

A. The Project (80% for the whole class)
   1. keep a log (can use various media). 5%
   2. discuss various projects
   3. identify one possible theme/project which is consistent with the
      themes found in 4284ya (the project must evolve from the course
      rather than pre-existing projects).
   4. choose the project in an empathic and altruistic manner 25%
   5. meet with instructor and obtain approval to proceed- this will be
      based on the following criteria: the project should be a/ emergent b/
      organic c/ based on 4284 ecological themes and d/ altruistic, serving
      the greatest good given the limitations of the course
   6. identify roles within the project
   7. plan the project; everyone must be fully involved in all stages
   8. conduct the project successfully with emphasis on the following
      criteria: emergent, organic, empathic and altruistic. 20%
   9. meet with the instructor weekly to review progress 10%
  10. submit an eco-audit of the project at completion 5%
  11. hand-in a video of the project (i.e. the process and product) 5%
  12. present an analysis and assessment of the results of the project 10%
B. Synthesis (20%, individually)

13. provide a synthesis (themes) of what you learned in regard to content, process, self, and group during the project

**COURSE INTENTIONS**

- to practice empathic and emergent learning by organizing an authentic ecological project
- to learn about and practise ecological advocacy
- to acquire specific skills and knowledge in diverse settings
- to develop teaching/learning strategies for motivating, organizing and evaluating learners in similar settings
- to further develop a sense of altruism and community.

**OCT STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR TEACHING**

- commitment to students and student learning
- professional knowledge
- professional practice
- leadership in learning communities
- ongoing professional learning

**OTC ETHICAL STANDARDS**

- care
- respect
- trust
- integrity

**EVALUATION:**

For the project, one class mark will be awarded for all (except in extenuating circumstances e.g. individual students may obtain a different mark than the class mark due to poor attendance, poor effort, unresolved conflicts, or other unusual circumstances).

The course mark will be based on an Honours, 2Pass, Fail basis.

**MAXIMUM PASS= a mark of 80-88%**
- successfully complete A and B.

A maximum pass performance exhibits strong evidence of:
- a substantial understanding of the subject matter
- an ability to organize, analyse, synthesize, integrate ideas and express thoughts fluently
- obtaining media coverage (external to the university) of the project.
- behaviour in the project is consistent with the Swan and is:
  a/ empathic b/ emergent c/ organic d/ altruistic

**HONOURS= a mark of 90-100%**
- complete all maximum pass components as well as meeting the conditions
An honours performance exhibits strong and consistent evidence of:
- exceeding the stated expectations of the course
- a comprehensive, inclusive mastery of the subject matter, in particular ecological consciousness and emergent design.
- an excellent ability to organize, analyse, synthesize, integrate ideas and express thoughts fluently
- behaviour consistent with the Swan.

MINIMUM PASS=50–78%
- do not complete all maximum pass components: e.g. missing components, unresolvable conflict, poor attendance, ecological damage, unsuccessful results, behaviour inconsistent with the criteria stated at the maximum pass level.

FAIL= mark of 45% or less.
A fail performance exhibits evidence of:
- incomplete and/or flawed understanding of the subject matter and/or assignments
- inability to organize, analyse, synthesize, integrate ideas and express thoughts fluently
- unacceptable deportment
- academic dishonesty
- unsafe behaviour

Note: All assignments must be handed in by March 20 2015.

RESOURCES


"Must we always teach our children with books? Let them look at the mountains and the stars up above. Let them look at the beauty of the waters and the trees and flowers on earth. They will then begin to think, and to think is the beginning of a real education". Polis