

**EWP 6108: Ecopsychology: Foundations, Applications, Frontiers**  
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**Course Description:**

The roots of the modern environmental crises reach deep into the human soul. The soul, with its whims, fantasies, and susceptibilities, has become a force of nature shaping ecosystems as do wind, fire, rain, and fungi. It is popular to assert that the time has come for “consciousness” to take its place as driving force of evolution. This too, is already happening, but not always in a positive fashion. Ready or not, our souls and minds are shaping and altering the fabric of life on Earth. Our emotional and mental health *matters*.

In this class, we will cover the theoretical and practical bases of ecopsychology. We will explore the role emotions (like shame, terror, awe, and love), myths, and morality play in our relationship with the more-than-human world. The course includes a weekend of inquiry and daylong vision quest in the nature (Sept. 27-28). Seeking wisdom and guidance in natural places is an ancient practice adopted by ecopsychology. We will also explore modern applications of this field that involve work in urban centers, therapeutic settings, the arts, and with youth. In the final weeks, we will examine and perhaps expand the scope and frontiers that are emerging in contemporary ecopsychology.

Home (*oikos*), soul (*psyche*), and divine wisdom (*logos*) are joined in the word *ecopsychology*. This class is designed for activists, teachers, therapists, and artists who want to bring these elements together in their work. While we will take time to “wallow in the wound,” because wallowing is an important and unavoidable, the main focus of this class is to free the imagination and foster internal sovereignty. Healing the soul is integral to ecological balance and maintenance because the soul is part of nature.

**Learning Objectives:**

After completing the course students will:

1. Have a foundational understanding of the field of Ecopsychology.
2. Be familiar with and able to apply some of the healing modalities of this field.
3. Develop and deepen an ongoing and focused curiosity about the relationship between psychology, ecological crises, healing, imagination, and *life*.

**Learning Activities:**

1. Cognitive/Didactic (lecture, videos, reading)	40%
2. Dialogue/Collective Inquiry/Expression (presentations, discussions, writing)	40%
3. Experiential (weekend retreat and follow-up)	20%

**Criteria for Evaluation:** P/F, Letter Grade, or as allowed by Department

**Required Texts:** From a compiled Course Reader and an anthology, *Ecopsychology: Restoring the Earth, Healing the Mind*, edited by T. Roszak, M. Gomes, and A. Kanner (1995).

