

**Course Syllabus**  
**Lewis & Clark College**  
**Graduate School of Education and Counseling**

**Course Name: Ecotherapy and Applied Ecopsychology**  
**Course Number: CPSY 597-01**  
**Term: Fall 2021**  
**Department: Counseling, Therapy, and School Psychology**  
**Faculty Name: Patricia H. Hasbach, Ph.D.**  
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**Course Calendar & Meeting Times**

**Days:** Saturdays, October 2 & November 6, 2021

**Times:** 9:00am – 5:00pm

**Location:** York Graduate Center, Room 107

**Course Descriptions:**

This course in Ecotherapy focuses on broadening and deepening the practice of psychotherapy by extending the psychotherapeutic context to include the natural world in which we live. We will further our survey of research that supports the theoretical foundations of ecotherapy found in environmental and conservation psychology, ecopsychology, evolutionary psychology, and biophilia. Specific practices and methods that incorporate nature into the therapeutic process will be explored and students will have the opportunity to practice these techniques. We will explore topics such as environmental identity, restorative effects of direct contact with nature, a “sense of place,” the concepts of a Nature Language and Human Rewilding, and contemporary influences that affect the human-nature relationship. Ethical issues unique to the practice of ecotherapy will be discussed.

**Course Structure:**

- This one-credit course includes two in-person class sessions that are held on two weekend days one month apart.
- The course includes self-directed activities outside of the classroom sessions.
- During the class meetings, didactic presentations will be balanced by group exercises, outdoor activities, and in-class student presentations.
- Course activities include readings from assigned texts and articles, written work, reflection exercises, and in-class presentations.
- Each class meeting will include classroom time and outdoor activities on campus. Students should dress appropriately for the weather.

**Course Goals:**

1. Develop a deeper understanding of the theoretical foundations of ecotherapy.
2. Develop a deeper understanding of the influence of the human-nature relationship on our mental health and well-being, and develop strategies to address this ecological context in the therapeutic process.

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of ecotherapy methods and practices, and be able to identify ways to integrate this work into students' academic and professional development.

### **Required text:**

This course has two required text (available at the LC bookstore and in various online venues such as Amazon.com). Additional readings will be made available during the course.

Buzzell, L. & Chalquist, C. (Eds.) (2009). *Ecotherapy: Healing With Nature in Mind*. San Francisco, CA: Sierra Club Books.

Kahn, P. H., Jr. & Hasbach, P.H. (2012). *Ecopsychology: Science, Totems, and the Technological Species*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

### **Course Requirements:**

- Full class attendance is required. Since class weekends are experiential and involve group process, there is no effective "make up" to class attendance. Consult instructor regarding any absences in advance. Missed class time may result in an incomplete.
- Since this course is designed to be an interactive experiential exploration of Ecotherapy, students' participation in class discussions and activities are essential. If there are any questions or concerns regarding the participation in any particular experiential exercise, please notify the instructor. Class participation includes:
  - Informed discussion of reading assignments
  - Engagement in class role plays and activities
  - Personal reflections regarding in-class activities
  - Respectful and constructive feedback on peers oral and written work
- Process paper (3-4 pages, excluding cover page and references)
- Contemplative Nature Walk Report and Class Discussion
- Nature Interactions Interview Report

### **Process Paper – due Sunday, October 10, 2021**

Students will submit a 3-4 page process paper after the first weekend meeting. In this paper, you should engage with the main ideas in each of the assigned readings. You can also draw on class exercises and discussion from our first weekend meeting. Quote from critical passages in the readings to develop your ideas in a scholarly manner. Papers should be submitted in APA format with a cover page and references. Good grammar, spelling, and polished writing are important!

*Please email your paper to the instructor as an attachment in a Word-compatible document.*

### **Midcourse assignment: A Contemplative Nature Walk Report – due Saturday, November 6, 2021**

During the time between our class meetings, you are asked to set aside one-half day (minimum of 4 hours) for a contemplative nature walk. This time should be used to explore a series of questions that will be provided by the instructor to help you focus on how you see yourself and your work at this time. Pick a place where you can be as undisturbed as possible. As preparation for your walk, I would like you

to review the questions and notice which ones tug at you for attention. Write down those particular questions and memorize them ahead of time. Be sure you have what you need to be safe and comfortable during your walk: water bottle, sunglasses, hat, good walking shoes, journal, appropriate clothes for the weather, map if necessary, etc. I would like you to go without technology for the duration of your walk so that there are no distractions from your attention on nature and your questions. You will summarize your reflections on the questions you've chosen in a 3-4 page paper to be turned in to the instructor. This paper does NOT need to be prepared in APA format. We will also have time in class to share about this experience.

*Please turn in a **hard copy** of your paper **during class**.*

### **Nature Interactions Interview Report – due Sunday, November 21, 2021**

Students will conduct a semi-structured interview with a subject outside of the class about an experience in nature that the subject found deeply meaningful, memorable, and/or inspired a sense of awe, and write a report (approximately 3 pages) about the interview that includes:

1. An introduction to the interview including a description of the interviewee (no names), the date of the interview, the setting, and the length of the interview.
2. A thorough summary of the event described by the interviewee
3. A listing of interaction patterns you heard during the interview
4. A concluding summary of what made this event meaningful to the interviewee, and what might have been restorative
5. A summary of how you envision you might use such information in formulating a nature prescription if this person was a client
6. This report does not have to be in APA format. Thoroughness, good grammar, spelling, and typos matter. Papers turned in late will lose credit.

### **Evaluation and Assessment:**

Written and oral presentations will be evaluated on the basis of their clarity, thoughtfulness, and integration of themes and issues discussed in the class. A grade of A will be given to papers and presentations that are clear, thoughtful, and tied to the themes of the course. B+ and B papers and presentations will be missing one or more of these elements. Course participation grading will also follow this format.

### **Grading:**

97-100 = A+

87- 89 = B+

77- 79 = C+

93-96 = A

83-86 = B

73-76 = C

90-92 = A-

80-82 = B-

70-72 = C-

### **Course points (90 total):**

Class participation – 15 pts

Process paper – 20 pts

Contemplative Nature Walk Report – 25 pts

Nature Interactions Interview – 30 pts

**NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY/SPECIAL ASSISTANCE**

Lewis & Clark College adheres to a nondiscriminatory policy with respect to employment, enrollment, and program. The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap or disability, sexual orientation, or marital status and has a firm commitment to promote the letter and spirit of all equal opportunity and civil rights laws.

**SPECIAL NEEDS/ ACCOMMODATIONS**

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability and/or you have emergency medical information to share please make an appointment with the instructor as soon as possible.

**CPSY DEPARTMENTAL ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Class attendance is expected and required. Any missed class time will be made up by completing extra assignments designed by the instructor. Missing more than ten percent of class time may result in failure to complete the class. This would be 4.5 hours of a 45 hour class (3 credits), 3.0 hours for a 30 hour class (2 credits) or 1.5 hours for a 15 hour class (1 credit.) In case of extreme hardship and also at the discretion of the instructor, a grade of incomplete may be given for an assignment or the entire course. In such cases, the work to be submitted in order to remove the incomplete must be documented appropriately and stated deadlines met. Students are expected to be on time to class and tardiness may be seen as an absence that requires make-up work.

The following schedule will help you organize your reading assignments for this course. Please come to class meetings prepared to discuss the readings assigned. Additional readings may be added by the instructor during the course.

**Prior to the First Weekend Meeting:**

***From Ecotherapy: Healing with Nature in Mind:***

Forward	Orr, D.
Introduction: Psyche and Nature in a Circle of Healing	Buzzell & Chalquist
Psychotherapy as if the World Mattered	Robinson, L
Why and How Do Therapists Become Ecotherapists?	Rust, M

***From Ecopsychology: Science, Totems, and the Technological Species:***

Psychoterratic Conditions in a Scientific & Technological World	Albrecht, G
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Please *review* these chapters:

Introduction: Ecopsychology: Science, Totems, and the Technological Species	Kahn & Hasbach
Building the Science Base: Ecopsychology Meets Clinical Epidemiology	Frumkin, H

**Articles (PDF will be provided by instructor):**

Using Nature as a Therapeutic Partner (*Counseling Today*, May 2018)

The Rise of Eco-Anxiety (*Psychotherapy Networker*, Jan/Feb 2019)

**Prior to the Second Weekend Meeting:**

***From Ecotherapy: Healing with Nature in Mind:***

Asking Different Questions: Therapy for the Human Animal	Buzzell, L
Ecotherapy Research and a Psychology of Homecoming	Chalquist, C
Beyond the Big Lie: How One Therapist Began to Wake Up	Harris, S
Children and Nature: The Great Disconnect	Louv, R

***From Ecopsychology: Science, Totems, and the Technological Species:***

A Nature Language	Kahn, Ruckert, & Hasbach
Ecotherapy	Hasbach, P

**Articles (PDF will be provided by instructor):**

Therapy in the Face of Climate Change (*Ecopsychology Journal*, Dec 2015)

Allies, Sidekicks, and Pals (*Monitor on Psychology*, June 2017)

Nature Therapy: An Essential Prescription for Health (*Alternative & Complementary Therapies*, Apr 2019)

### Additional Bibliography

**The following titles are offered as additional resources for you. They are not required reading.**

Abram, D. (1996). *The Spell of the Sensuous*. New York: Vintage Books.

Abram, D. (2010). *Becoming Animal: An Earthly Cosmology*. New York: Pantheon Books.

Adams, C. (ed.) (1996). *The Soul Unearthed: Celebrating Wildness and Personal Renewal Through Nature*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.

Bechtel R. B. & Churchman, A. (Eds.) (2002) *Handbook of environmental psychology*. New York: Wiley.

Berry, T. (1998). *The Dream of the Earth*. San Francisco: Sierra Club Books

Bronfenbrenner, U. (1979). *The Ecology of Human Development*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Buzzell, L. & Chalquist, C. (Eds.) (2009). *Ecotherapy: Healing With Nature in Mind*. San Francisco, CA: Sierra Club Books.

Chalquist, C. (2007). *Terrapsychology*. New Orleans, LA: Spring Journal Books.

Clayton, S. & Myers, G. (2009). *Conservation Psychology*. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

Clayton, S., & Opatow, S. (2003). (Eds.) *Identity and the Natural Environment*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Clinebell, H. (1996). *Ecotherapy: Healing ourselves, healing the earth*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Cohen, M. J. (1995). *Well mind, well earth*. Roche Harbor, WA: World Peace University Press

Fisher, A. (2002). *Radical ecopsychology: Psychology in the service of life*. New York: State University of New York Press.

Gardner, P. & Stern, P. C. (2002). *Environmental problems and human behavior* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing.

Harper, N., Rose, K., & Segal D. (2019). *Nature-based Therapy: A Practitioner's Guide to Working Outdoors with Children, Youth, & Families*. British Columbia, Canada: New Society Publishers

Hillman, J. & Ventura, M. (1992). *We've had a hundred years of psychotherapy and the world's getting worse*. San Francisco: Harper Collins.

Jordan, M. & Hinds, J. (eds). (2016). *Ecotherapy: Theory, Research & Practice*. London: Palgrave

Jordan, M. (2015). *Nature and Therapy: Understanding Counselling and Psychotherapy in*

*Outdoor Spaces*. London & New York: Routledge

Kahn, P.H. (1999). *The Human Relationship with Nature: Development and Culture*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Kahn, P.H., Jr. & Hasbach, P.H. (2013). *The Rediscovery of the Wild*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press

Kahn, P. H., Jr. & Hasbach, P.H. (2012). *Ecopsychology: Science, Totems, and the Technological Species*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Kidner, D. W. (2001). *Nature and psyche*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Macy J., & Brown, M. Y. (1998). *Coming Back to Life: Practices to reconnect our lives, our world*. Gabriola Island, British Columbia: New Society Publishers.

Nicholsen, S. W. (2002). *The love of nature and the end of the world*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Louv, R. (2011). *The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of Nature-deficit Disorder*. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.

Lundberg, A. (1998). *The environment and mental health: A guide for clinicians*. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Orr, D. (1992). *Ecological literacy*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Plotkin, B. (2008). *Nature and the Human Soul*. Novato, CA: New World Library.

Plotkin, B. (2013). *Wild Mind: A Field Guide to the Human Psyche*. Novato, CA: New World Library.

Roszak, T., Gomes, M., Kanner, A. (1995). *Ecopsychology: Restoring the Earth, Healing the Mind*. San Francisco, CA: Sierra Club Books.

Roszak, T. (1992, 2001). *The Voice of the Earth: An exploration of ecopsychology*. Grand Rapids, MI: Phanes Press.

Selhub, E.M. & Logan, A.C. (2012). *Your Brain on Nature*. Mississauga, Ontario, Canada: John Wiley & Sons, Canada, LTD

Totton, N. (2011). *Wild Therapy: Undomesticating Inner and Outer Worlds*. Ross-on-Wye, UK: PCCS Books.

Williams, F. (2017). *The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company.

