

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN APPLIED ECOPSYCHOLOGY

AKAMAI UNIVERSITY

9 July 2011



Oh, what a catastrophe, what a maiming of love when it was made personal, merely personal feeling. This is what is the matter with us: we are bleeding at the roots because we are cut off from the earth and sun and stars. Love has become a grinning mockery because, poor blossom, we plucked it from its stem on the Tree of Life and expected it to keep on blooming in our civilized vase on the table.

---D. H. Lawrence

A true to life 'Pandora-Na'vi' relationship-strengthening process; it helps our well being improve through sensory contact with nature's restorative balance and beauty.

---Michael J. Cohen

Applied Ecopsychology reverses our disconnectedness by utilizing proven medical procedures. For example, good medical thinking and research have created surgical techniques that reattach an amputated arm back to the body. If reconnected properly, the arm will, in time, function normally. Part of this art is the surgical technology our clear thinking has devised to bring the arm back in proper contact with the body. The remainder of the procedure is trusting that once this reconnection is made, nature itself has the wisdom to heal the rupture and rejoin the arm and body as one integrated organism. We don't know how to do that healing, however nature does it continuously via its natural attraction ecological processes at sub-atomic and global levels, for that is its way. Good medical thinking respects that nature has this extraordinary regenerative power. It taps into it. It surgically provides the proper environment and time for nature to heal, as only nature can. Applied Ecopsychology activities do the same thing with respect to our extremely nature-separated psyche and thinking process and the disorders they create.

Applied Ecopsychology, as a field of study, researches and initiates practical self-guiding methods and materials. These tools enable the prospective applied ecopsychologist to learn, use, and teach the nature-reconnecting process in the personal, professional and educational environments. This degree program offers vital information, expertise and support through mentorship, distance learning courses, interactive workshops, academic readings, Internet presentations, and independent study and projects. Discover how our excessive separation from nature stresses our sentient inner nature and causes our most challenging problems. Learn to reverse this destructive process. Master thoughtful nature reconnecting activities that dissolve stress by satisfying our deepest natural loves, wants and spirit. This course teaches hands-on education, counseling and mental health skills that interlace our thoughts and feelings with the "higher power" wisdom of nature's creation process. Its unique natural attraction methods and materials let nature nurture self-esteem, friendships and responsibility. Applied Ecopsychology increases wellness and creativity and helps us build rewarding, sustainable relationships. Learn and teach this process to increase personal, social and environmental well-being.

Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Ecopsychology

PRIMARY FACULTY

Michael J. Cohen, Ed.D., Ph.D., MA
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Theresa Sweeney, Ph.D., MS
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ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

As prerequisites for acceptance to the Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Ecopsychology, participants should have completed the equivalent of a recognized Master's degree in an appropriate field of study, with several years of meaningful professional experience.

Under special circumstances, well-qualified applicants are accepted to the Doctoral program with a Postgraduate Certificate, or a degree in an unrelated field, lacking certain elements of preparation, when the balance of their credentials are exceptional. Under these conditions, participants will be required to add missing competencies to their program and, if appropriate, pay additional tuition, accordingly.

Participants are expected to be proficient in collegiate English language skills. Applicants who are second language English should submit a record of prior English-language college study or a record of TOEFL examination with a minimum score of 500. Participants are expected to have access to a computer, email and the Internet, and college library resources for the full extent of their program.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Participants in the Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Ecopsychology complete a minimum of 52 credits above the Master's degree including the dissertation. The coursework requirements include the academic core, the major concentration, and research preparation competencies. In addition, doctoral participants complete a written and oral comprehensive examination at the conclusion of their academic coursework and prepare a formal dissertation proposal. Participants complete the dissertation project, prepare the manuscript for physical review by the dissertation committee, and complete an oral review of dissertation at the conclusion of the project.

As a minimum degree requirement, doctoral students must maintain Akamai University enrollment for at least one and one-half calendar years. Most doctoral students complete their program within three years from the date of initial registration. A maximum period of six years is allowed to finish all requirements for the degree.

Doctor of Philosophy in Applied Ecopsychology

Degree Requirements (Required: 52 credits):

- Core Studies in Applied Ecopsychology (Required: 18 credits)
- Major Concentration (Required: 12 credits)
- Research Preparation (Required: 6 credits)
- EXM 980: Doctoral Comprehensive Examination (Required: 2 credits)
- RES 985: Dissertation Proposal (Required: 4 credits)
- RES 990: Dissertation (Required: 8 credits)
- EXM 995: Oral Review of Dissertation (Required: 2 credits)

Core Studies in Applied Ecopsychology

These are the foundational competencies in theories, principles, and practices, and the historical, philosophical, and social-cultural implications of the discipline. These courses represent the core competencies and essential elements, which define your field of study and establish the underlying foundations upon which you may base your advanced professional development.

Core Studies in Applied Ecopsychology (Required: 18 credits)

- ECO 600: Psychological Elements of Global Citizenship: (2 credit)
- ECO 601: Introduction to Educating and Counseling with Nature (4 credits)
- ECO 602: Educating and Counseling with Nature (4 credits)
- ECO 604 Researching Sensory Knowing and Culture (2 credits)
- ECO 608: Natural Attractions, Intelligence and Sanity (1 credit)
- ECO 611: Educating and Counseling with Nature: Student Teaching (2 credits)
- ECO 612: Educating and Counseling with Nature: Student Teaching (3 credits)

The Major Concentration in Applied Ecopsychology

Doctoral students complete coursework comprising an major concentration in applied ecopsychology, comprising at least 12 credits, as outlined below.

Major Concentration in Applied Ecopsychology (Required: 12 credits)

- ECO 603: Exploratory Readings in Applied Ecopsychology (2 credits)
- ECO 622: Public Relations and Marketing (2 credits)
- ECO 751: Practicum in Applied Ecopsychology (4 credits)
- ECO 752: Advanced Practicum in Applied Ecopsychology (4 credits)

Research Preparation in Applied Ecopsychology

Doctoral students pursue studies providing advanced research knowledge necessary for success in their dissertation. At least six semester credits of research preparation coursework is required as listed below. Through this requirement, students learn to effectively define applied problems in applied ecopsychology and articulate the rationale for the study. They learn to present an effective scholarly review of the academic literature and implement qualitative or participatory action methods for evaluating the issues of research.

Research Preparation in Applied Ecopsychology (Required: 6 credits)

- ECO 753: Case Studies in Education and Counseling with Nature (3 credits)
- ECO 541: Participatory Research Techniques for Applied Ecopsychology (3 credits)

Comprehensive Examination

Once you have completed the coursework or tutorial elements of your degree, you will be asked to schedule the Comprehensive Examination. Your primary faculty advisor and a faculty member representing your research area conduct both the written and oral components of the examination. The written portion is open book style with selected essay questions requiring creative responses that reach for the higher levels of cognition. Your answers are expected to draw from the academic competencies of your program with proper referencing of the scholarly literature. The oral component of the examination is normally completed by telephone conference and is intended to allow detailed investigation of your written responses.

Comprehensive Examination (Required: 2 credits)

EXM 980: Comprehensive Examination (2 credits)

Dissertation Proposal

You are expected to prepare a formal proposal related to your concept for dissertation research under the direction of your primary faculty advisor and according to University expectations.

Dissertation Proposal (Required: 4 credits)

RES 985: Dissertation Proposal (4 credits)

Dissertation Project

Following approval of your dissertation proposal, you will begin your research project. Your dissertation should take the form of a qualitative or participatory action research project of the type appropriate to the discipline. Whichever approach to the dissertation is chosen, the resulting project must demonstrate mastery of a body of knowledge in applied ecopsychology, be your original work, and represent a mature and meaningful contribution to the field. The body of your dissertation manuscript, structured according to a set of approved manuscript guidelines, should exceed 150 double spaced, typewritten pages, unless approved otherwise by senior faculty.

Dissertation Project (Required: 8 credits)

RES 990: Dissertation Project (8 credits)

Oral Review of Dissertation

Once you have prepared the dissertation manuscript, you will be asked to schedule the formal review process. Your primary faculty advisor and two faculty members representing your field of research will conduct both the formal physical review of the dissertation manuscript and the oral review of dissertation.

The physical review of the manuscript usually takes the dissertation review committee four to six weeks. Each reviewer will prepare questions and commentary relative to your underlying review of the literature, the dissertation methodology, the mechanics of your project, and your presentation of the findings, conclusions and recommendations. The Oral Review of Dissertation is conducted under the direction of your primary faculty advisor with the assistance of two qualified members of the faculty. The examination is carried out by telephone conference call or another agreed upon method with recoding or written documentation of the proceedings. The media of examination is designed to allow detailed investigation of your dissertation, permitting

the faculty reviewers a means to explore with you issues related to your dissertation including methodology, review of literature and interpretation of the findings.

One outcome of the dissertation review process is a set of final expectations directing you through the remaining tasks for completing the dissertation manuscript. Once your final manuscript is approved, you will submit the formal document to an approved bindery and later arrange for the bound dissertation to be shipped to the University for permanent archival storage.

Oral Review of Dissertation (Required: 2 credits)

EXM 895: Oral Review of Dissertation (2 credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Core Studies in Applied Ecopsychology
Major Concentration in Applied Ecopsychology
Research Preparation in Applied Ecopsychology
Finishing Activities, Examinations and Dissertation

Core Studies in Applied Ecopsychology

ECO 600: Psychological Elements of Global Citizenship (2 credits)

This short course is offered to students when required or suggested by their department, or by the student's personal choice during any period semester of enrollment or application. It may also be used as a student facilitator training internship once the student has completed the course.

Students discover how our excessive separation from nature stresses our sensuous inner nature and initiates our personal and global troubles. Students learn to reverse this destructive process by mastering thoughtful sensory nature reconnecting activities that dissolve stress by satisfying our deepest natural loves, wants, and spirit. This hands-on course teaches lasting leadership, education, counseling, and mental health skills that feelingly tap the "higher power" wisdom of Earth's creation process. The email and telephone contacts of the course empower students to let nature help them nurture warm interpersonal relationships, wellness, and responsibility on personal and global levels. Students relate the course methods and materials to their fields of interest in order to integrate these areas with the global ecosystem. They become familiar with the Natural Systems Thinking Process and improve their Globally Balanced Thinking Score.

(Textbook: Web of Life Imperative)

ECO 601: Introduction to Educating and Counseling with Nature (4 credits)

Students learn to promote, teach and research personal, social and environmental responsibility by mastering and adapting unique "nature-connecting" teaching methods for personal and professional use. They discover how to teach first-hand, tangible, reconnection with nature contacts that provide information and satisfy deep natural wants. Students discover how, when unsatisfied, these wants disrupt inner peace and fuel personal, cultural and ecological disorders. Under the direction of the instructor, students establish and identify a two or more person class of students with whom they work online and/or onsite. They maintain a journal of their teaching and research efforts and prepare a 5 page reflective paper. Prerequisite: ECO 600. (Textbook: Reconnecting with Nature)

ECO 602: Educating and Counseling with Nature (4 credits)

Students learn to promote, teach and research personal, social and environmental responsibility by adapting unique "nature-connecting" teaching methods for personal and professional use. They master the use of hands-on reconnection with nature contacts as education and counseling procedures. Students help promote, organize, and guide presentations for a selected group. They mentor an individual, or teach/facilitate a two or three person class. In concert with a support group that includes the facilitator, they maintain and post a journal of their teaching, findings and research efforts and prepare a 5 page reflective paper. Prerequisite: ECO 601. (Textbook: Well Mind, Well Earth)

ECO 604 Researching Sensory Knowing and Culture (2 credits)

Students will investigate a library of recent references related to their particular career field or interests that reflect upon the issues relevant to sensory ecology. Students will read and discuss the literature with Dr. Cohen and other professionals. Students will gather a bibliography of literature in their professional field or interest that supports work in Integrated Ecology and prepare an annotated bibliography. Students will prepare a reflective paper of at least 15 typewritten double-spaced pages discussing how the literature has informed their understanding of the opportunities for integration of Applied Ecopsychology/Integrated Ecology concepts within their career field.

ECO 608: Natural Attractions, Intelligence and Sanity (1 credit)

Participants discover how to help prevent contemporary society's nature-separated thinking from deteriorating personal growth and responsible relationships. Increase your effectiveness, marketability and global citizenship by learning about the process of educating and counseling with nature. Learn how to introduce a readily available natural systems thinking process into various aspects of society.

ECO 611: Student Teaching -Educating and Counseling with Nature I (2 credits)

Students co-facilitate ECO 601:Introduction to Educating and Counseling with Nature, under the guidance and supervision of the instructor. Student Co-facilitators serve as interns, using their experience and expertise in the content of ECO 601, to help participants succeed in the ECO 601 orientation course.

ECO 612: Student Teaching -Educating and Counseling with Nature II (3 credits)

Students co-facilitate ECO 602:Educating and Counseling with Nature, under the guidance and supervision of the instructor. Student Co-facilitators serve as interns, using their experience and expertise in the content of ECO 602, to help participants succeed in the ECO 601 orientation course.

Major Concentration in Applied Ecopsychology

ECO 603: Exploratory Readings in Applied Ecopsychology (2 credits)

While they are teaching and researching sensory ecology, students will seek, read and critique methods and materials from their own library research. Students carefully explore the literature and prepare an annotated bibliography. As the principal course assignment, participants will

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prepare a scholarly paper of at least 15 typewritten double-spaced pages discussing problems and solutions to important issues and practice of Applied Ecopsychology/Integrated Ecology.

ECO 622: Public Relations and Marketing (2 credits)

Students survey the field of Public Relations and Marketing to determine the most significant means to promote, implement and produce support for their involvement in the natural systems thinking process. They identify what that makes each technique and strategy worthwhile, select those that make the most sense to them, defend them, and apply them in areas that add to the field of nature connected psychology and their personal interests. The student writes a three page progress report that documents their work and learning in this area and that would assist others who read it. Prerequisites: Students must complete ECO 501 or its equivalent.

ECO 751: Practicum in Applied Ecopsychology (4 credits)

Students experience in advanced theory and practice how Western Civilization separates the "human" from the "natural" and estranges us from nature's integrity, love, and spirit, in and around us. Students master, design and implement conscientious techniques which reverse this dilemma and catalyze responsible relationships for "reconnecting with nature in people and places" through negotiating a field experience placement within their career field which supports a practical observation of Integrated Ecology. This field experience will represent a minimum of 90 hours in one or more monitored placements. In them, students apply the syllabus of ECO 501 and ECO 602 as perceptual filter, maintain a weekly log reflecting upon their experiences and prepare a scholarly paper (at least 15 typewritten double-spaced pages) discussing how the field placement experience has built their understanding of overcoming barriers to successful integration of Integrated Ecology concepts within their career field. [Prerequisite: ECO 601]

ECO 752: Advanced Practicum in Applied Ecopsychology (4 credits)

Students experience in advanced theory and practice how Western Civilization separates the "human" from the "natural" and estranges us from nature's integrity, love, and spirit, in and around us. Students master, design and implement conscientious techniques which reverse this dilemma and catalyze responsible relationships for "reconnecting with nature in people and places" through negotiating a field experience placement within their career field which supports a practical observation of Integrated Ecology. This field experience will represent a minimum of 90 hours in one or more monitored placements. In them, students apply the syllabus of ECO 501 and ECO 602 as a perceptual filter, maintain a weekly log reflecting upon their experiences and prepare a scholarly paper (at least 15 typewritten double-spaced pages) discussing how the field placement experience has built their understanding of overcoming barriers to successful integration of Integrated Ecology concepts within their career field.

Research Preparation in Applied Ecopsychology

ECO 753: Case Studies in Education and Counseling with Nature (3 credits)

Students experience in theory and practice how Western Civilization separates the "human" from the "natural" and estranges us from nature's integrity, love, and spirit, in and around us. Students complete field research and prepare case studies describing and validating the growth and development of at least eight individuals who are using nature-reconnecting techniques and

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prepare a scholarly paper (at least 15 double-spaced typewritten pages) discussing all aspects of the research project and the findings. [Prerequisite: ECO 541]

ECO 541 Participatory Research Techniques for Applied Ecopsychology (3 credits)

Students will investigate the available literature on participatory research techniques. This may include readings in the literature pertaining to implementing system-transforming innovations (Bushe and Shani), participatory action research in the workplace (Whyte), reflection in action (Schon), reframing organizational culture (Frost, et. al.) and self-reliant initiative (Fals-Borda), as well as other qualitative and action science methodologies. Students will identify an appropriate mini-study, apply techniques from their readings, complete the study and prepare a technical paper of at least ten double-spaced typewritten pages referencing the literature and describing the value of participatory research techniques to the fields of Integrated Ecology.

Finishing Activities

EXM 980: Comprehensive Examination (2 credits)

This is the traditional comprehensive examination of doctoral students conducted by the graduate committee immediately following completion of the academic coursework and prior to undertaking the dissertation. The examination usually includes both written and oral components and is confined to the programs of studies completed by the student.

RES 985: Dissertation Proposal (4 credits)

Participants prepare a formal dissertation research proposal according to publish University policies and guidelines.

RES 990: Dissertation Project (8 credits)

This course governs the conduct of the dissertation project for the doctoral level student. The dissertation is a major undertaking that is a demonstration of mastery of a field of study and an original contribution to the field usually 150 or more pages in length. The dissertation project may take any of several forms, depending upon the field of study and the expectations of faculty. This may be quantitative or qualitative research, participatory action research. Doctoral students may re-enroll for this course for noncredit, as needed.

EXM 995: Oral Review of Dissertation (2 credits)

This examination is an oral defense of the doctoral dissertation conducted by the graduate committee immediately following their reading of the dissertation manuscript. The process follows guidelines published by the University.