

PHIL*4160-01

PHILOSOPHY FIELD COURSE [1.0]

Instructor: s. Linquist

Brief course Synopsis:

The Philosophy Field Course is being offered for the first time this Fall. The field component will take place between August 24th and September 03 in Tofino British Columbia. The field trip is a mandatory component of the course, one for which the student assumes the costs of transportation, food and lodging. The topic is an investigation of competing perspectives on the environment. The classroom component of the course takes place following the field component, in the Fall '11 semester.

This course will spend approximately ten days on location at the Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve on Vancouver Island. This is a site of astounding natural beauty as well as economic and political significance. In 1993 the area staged Canada's largest act of civil disobedience - a protest over logging in one of North America's only remaining old-growth rainforests. Following this episode the region has become something of a microcosm for the competing economic, environmental and political interests that our society must balance on a global scale.

Many of the challenges confronting this region are familiar to philosophy students. However, these issues are usually discussed only in an abstract classroom setting. The aim of this course is to enrich these academic discussions with firsthand experience. We will learn about the ecology and social history of this region to understand why and how various stakeholders value it. We will interact with environmentalists, First Nations groups and industry members to determine how these groups view environmental issues. For example, what does "sustainability" mean to these groups? What are their respective long term goals and can they be reconciled? Students will formulate a general research question prior to arriving in Clayoquot Sound. The experiences that they collect during the visit will be included in a research paper and a presentation that will be prepared over the course of the Fall semester.

For more information please visit the course website here:

<http://biophilosophy.ca/Teaching/philosophy4160.html>

TEXTBOOK(S): TBA

EVALUATION: TBA

PREREQUISITE(S): Course Prerequisites: 12.0 credits in Philosophy, a minimum cumulative average of 70% and the permission of the instructor.

PLEASE NOTE: Students who do not meet the prerequisites but have a strong background and interest in the topic are encouraged to contact the instructor nonetheless at: linguist@uoguelph.ca