Psychology and Sustainability

2012 - Semester one, City Campus
Psych 715 (15 points)

What would a sustainable society look like? How can psychology help us get there? If you are concerned about the viability of our current way of life, and keen to explore how we can create a future that promotes human and ecological flourishing then this course is for you. Students from all faculties are welcome.*

The first half of the course will consist of lectures, discussions and readings on positive emotions, imitation, identity, belonging, moral development and the evolution of cooperation. We will apply each topic to understanding what maintains our current way of life and how to promote a more sustainable society. Students will also post critical reflections on the material covered and how it applies to their lives, communities, and/or wider cultural and political processes.

The second half of the course will involve students proposing a strategy or intervention to encourage sustainable practices within an organization or community they are familiar with. Students will need to use some of the psychological principles covered in the course as well as principles from their primary discipline, or experience in the “real world” (e.g. in the workplace, as a political agent, in a community group). Each student will then showcase their proposal in a 20 minute presentation. We hope this will be an enriching, stimulating experience for everyone in the class and that people are inspired to learn from each other.

Assessment: Critical reflections 20%, Test 30%, Presentation 10%, Proposal report 40%.

Further Information

Further information can be obtained from:

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*The course limit is 18 places and if the number of applicants exceed this, students will be selected based on their incoming G.P.A. Students studying within any graduate programme at the university are welcome to apply. Half the places will be reserved for psychology students.

Disclaimer
Although every reasonable effort is made to ensure accuracy, the information in this document is provided as a general guide only for students and is subject to alteration. All students enrolling at The University of Auckland must consult its official document, the Calendar of The University of Auckland, to ensure that they are aware of and comply with all regulations, requirements and policies.