

The major problems in the world are the result of the difference between how nature works and the way people think.

~ Gregory Bateson

**EDCI 591: Ecology, Pedagogy, and Practice**  
**July 28<sup>th</sup> - August 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am- 12:50 pm**  
**Instructor: Dr. Jennifer S. Thom**

**Course Description:**

Today, we are increasingly confronted with issues of globalization, the environmental crisis, and what we “should” do to avoid negative consequences.

Scholars within the Deep Ecology Movement, however, contend that fundamental shifts in the actual manners in which we think are vital if positive, radical and enduring changes are to be achieved.

EDCI 591 is an interdisciplinary graduate course for educators and professionals in leadership roles and is designed for students to explore, examine, and explicate:

- how ecological theories occasion a view that all life is fundamentally one
- how subtle differences in the way we conceive the world engender a natural willingness to care for the world and in turn,
- generate possibilities for redefining who we are, our disciplinary and cultural forms of knowledge and ultimately, the kinds of practices we wish to engage with others.

**Course Scope and Events:**

EDCI 591 is a theoretical course. Guest lectures by distinguished scholars in Ecophilosophy and Curriculum Theory are planned. Classes, fieldtrips, and required readings draw from the discourses of the Deep Ecology Movement, Systems Theory, Eco-justice, and Cognitive Science.

**Course Assignments:**

Students will complete one presentation and two written assignments based on the required course readings and classes with a focus on addressing key issues in their specific disciplinary field of research.



This theoretical course, interdisciplinary in its approach to both content and scope, is aimed at attracting the interests of a diverse group of students.

Please circulate the course description **immediately** to all graduate students and ask them to contact me by email ([jethom@uvic.ca](mailto:jethom@uvic.ca)) with their expression of interest no later than **Wednesday, June 4**.

**Student interest will determine whether EDCI 591 will be offered.**

If Graduate Advisors or graduate students wish to discuss any aspects of the course further, I am happy to do so. Direct contact with students prior to the start of the EDCI 591 is encouraged as this will allow for certain modifications to be made to accommodate individual interests or circumstances. Please email me at the above address.

Thank you for considering EDCI 591: Ecology, Pedagogy, and Practice.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Best wishes,

Dr. Jennifer S. Thom  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Faculty of Education