AUREL 271 AUIDS 286/386 Connecting Ecological Health and Spiritual Health

The topic is "Connecting ecological health to spiritual health". The 3 week course will be (weather permitting) predominantly "off campus" (on a beautiful farm very close to Camrose) and will be a "roads scholars class" with at least three day-long road trips.

CLASSES MEET FROM AUGUST 30TH TO SEPT 18, FROM 2 TO 5PM
August 30th: meet in Wahkotowin Lodge
August 31 and on: meet at Steve and Nathalie Olson’s farm (weather permitting)
September 4, 10 and 13 are full day field trips to Coens, Maskwacis, and Heibergs.
Sept 17 and 18: meet at the Epp Centre in the Forum Building upstairs.

Here are more details on our three major themes running through the course:

I. Understanding the ecology of our rural area.
We will do a rapid diagnostic of how environmentally sustainable rural areas and small communities around Camrose are (looking at how economy, politics, social structure and culture impact how we deal with the land). You will learn to use "photo voice" as well as a 'tree of life' diagnostic tool. You would be doing this in small groups and then share with the whole class.
To see positive ways of living within the ecology of the land, air and water, we will have a day-long road trip to the wholistic farm of Takota Coen, near Ferintosh.

II. Journey Inward
We examine our personal journey, our spiritualities. We look at contemplation as a way to insight. We examine the role that a practical, land-based, community-oriented spirituality can play in helping people live more sustainably (emotionally, spiritually, and physically) in this world.
For this theme we will have a day-long trip to Mascwacis and hope to understand Native spiritualities and their connection to the land better as well.

III. Journey Outward
Toward practical ways of finding a life and livelihood that is ecologically and spiritually sensitive...
We plan to have a day-long field trip to Heiberg’s farm near Round Hill a “farm in transition” from conventional to wholistic.
We also hope to get to know some solar installations and other practical steps people take, so we can see what we can do practically to live more lightly on this earth and improve environmental sustainability.
When we are not on the road, we will meet at the beautiful Steve and Nathalie Olson farm just North of Safeway and a bit West.

If you have more questions, feel free to ask Dr. Mundel at hmundel@ualberta.ca or chat with Raj Rathnavalu, a community volunteer, rathnava@ualberta.ca