

### **EDFO 495 Environmental Health and Education – COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, environmental health, public health and sustainable Eco-education is framed as a field of research, education, policy and advocacy that links the natural, health and social sciences with the worlds of the academy, community, business, economics, labour, governments and media. It includes physical, social, cultural, spiritual and societal relationships which are multi directional and interlinked with the health and well-being of all life.

In the context of transformative public health education, this course will help participants to develop critical thinking, as well as investigative, analytical and practical skills to better understand the constraints of scientific certainty and uncertainty in today's complex world. This understanding will help them address lifestyle as well as public policy changes. Of much importance is the role of the classroom teacher as a catalyst in connecting students to the broader understanding of the environment and its impact on our health. Teachers are in a unique position to create a supportive environment, develop personal skills, enable and equip students with the necessary knowledge tools to be advocates, mediators and policy drivers for a more sustainable future. This framework stresses social issues in environmental health contexts of gender, race, class, culture, ethnicity, age, poverty, militarism, war and other systems of oppression. A special lens as a Christian institution will allow teachers to understand the bigger frame of stewardship as citizens of the created world.

This class is organized by weeks with an Orientation Week prior to the beginning of the four-week intensive. The Orientation must be completed before you will be allowed to start the intensive. Please introduce yourself in D2L during the Orientation Week. The course will require 80-120 hours of study. Students are independent learners who must complete readings, videos, and assignments to meet personal and institutional deadlines. The content is arranged in four weeks of study. Tasks for each unit should be completed within the week allotted and the final task must be submitted by the last day of class.