

- Faculté des sciences
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Conservation psychology (3CB2012)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Master en conservation de la biodiversité	Cours: 28 pg	Voir ci-dessous	3
Pilier principal M ScS - psychologie et éducation	Cours: 28 pg	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M ScS - psychologie et éducation	Cours: 28 pg	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Laure Kloetzer
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Contenu

The course tackles the issue of environmental protection from a psychological perspective, with a socio-cultural focus. The environmental challenges currently coming to the fore (primarily biodiversity loss, climate change, soil, air and water pollution, habitat destruction) are the result of complex economic, political and social systems. Transforming the world to deal with these issues means not only transforming these systems, but also "changing mindsets", as we often hear.

So how are attitudes to the environment changing? This question can benefit from existing work in environmental psychology and education, just as much as it poses new questions for these disciplines. By psychology, we mean here a socio-cultural psychology, conceived in the broadest sense, concerned not with an isolated individual but with an individual embedded in a social, cultural, material, economic and political environment, which influences his or her frames of thought and actions, and which he or she actively contributes to transforming. What we don't know about these new and urgent issues is far more extensive than what we do know.

The course will tackle different aspects of Conservation Psychology and Environmental Education, including: connection to nature; plant blindness; more-than-humans pedagogies; zoos and botanic gardens as educational places for conservation; the role of art; attitudes and representations of climate change and biodiversity; and large predator conservation. It will also discuss different theoretical concepts linked to environmental awareness and engagement.

Forme de l'évaluation

The assessment is an internal evaluation, based on an individual report. Students will be asked to actively contribute to the course with diverse activities, including short exercises, and an individual essay. All these works will form the individual report that will be assessed.

Modalités de rattrapage

The individual report must be delivered by January 10th 2026 on Moodle and with a paper copy. The second deadline is February 10th 2026. Failure to hand in work in due time, without a valid reason approved in advance by the teacher, will constitute a failure.

Documentation

Readings are part of the course content. The reading list will be shared by the teacher at the first course and in the following courses.

Pré-requis

This course is mandatory in the interdisciplinary master of biodiversity conservation.

It can also be taken as elective course by students of the master of social sciences with a specialization in Psychology and Education, or in Geography (Climate Change and Society).

Forme de l'enseignement

This course is a seminar, it will combine presentations by the teacher and group discussions.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

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- Interpret empirical data in psychology
- Formulate contributions of Psychology to Conservation
- Identify main theories and methods in Conservation Psychology
- Develop reflective understanding of one's ecosophy
- Present one's work and conclusions
- Observe humans-other than humans interactions

Compétences transférables

- Explore new topics in an interdisciplinary way
- Communicate to a specialized or large audience