Environmental Ethics and the Indigenous people

Content:
Nowadays we are witnessing huge environmental damages created by humans and the modern industries but also the appropriation of Indigenous territories and the pollution of their sacred lands.
First, this course offers an overview of the traditional moral theories and the history of Environmental Ethics. Then we analyze environmental case studies with a focus on Indigenous matter. The main case studies presented are: the Sami Indigenous people in Finland -in the last decades the Barents Region have received increasing attention since due to the melting of the Arctic Ocean’s ice cover which will provide an alternative trading route, the Northern Sea Route with the consequence of limiting Sami traditional activities- and the construction of the oil pipeline in North Dakota, USA in 2016-2017 near the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation and the destruction of Native American land and burial sites. Since its construction, it has leak already five times in six months operations.

Methods:
Lectures, debates in class and screening of parts of documentary movies, reading of newspaper, small home assignments and final poster presentation on the last day of the IPW

Competences and skills to be acquired:
The aim of the course is to raise awareness about the fundamental and ethical role of the natural environment in human life, the respect of Indigenous lands, their cultural values and the importance of their traditions. These goals will be achieved through the analysis of recent issues about environmental case studies. Students will be trained to see different perspectives, applying moral theories and drawing ethical conclusions from real life cases in the news.

Prerequisities:
No prerequisites needed (previous study in philosophy and ethics are helpful).

Language of instruction: English

Recommended for: Interdisciplinary