

Summer course *Wild Perspectives*

3 ECTS capita selecta FNP - 23/27 August 2021
Wageningen University & NatureCollege Education

FNP-50403
3 ECTS
15 Euro
BSc 2+ & MSc

What

The Capita Selecta *Wild Perspectives* is a one-week summer course on the Dutch landscape from a “wild” perspective. In the course we reflect on our perspective on nature, our relationships with nature and the influences of these images and relations on the Dutch landscape. The first three days include workshops and excursions on nature images and perspectives, on landscape architecture and management, on community supported agriculture and agroecology, on community-initiated nature conservation and on the cultural history of the landscape. The evenings will provide creative workshops by several student organizations that allow students to experience wild perspectives on nature. The last two days we walk across a nature area close to Wageningen in the company of experts and view the terrestrial landscape from a nature perspective. Overnight we camp together and learn bushcraft skills. Students work in teams on a creative assignment based on their summer course experiences that will be presented and evaluated during a campfire session on the last evening. Lastly, students submit a reflection assignment in the subsequent week.

NB: We are aware of corona risks and if needed we will adapt the course to corona measures. All education will take place outside, in small groups (up to 25) and respecting social distance. Students, teachers and speakers with corona symptoms cannot participate or should be able to show negative test results. When physical meeting for the course is not possible due to regulations, the course is cancelled.

Why

Nature and biodiversity are usually portrayed through the human eye as interesting or functional entities, separate from or embedded within anthropogenic structures. In this course we reconsider that portrayal and introduce the perspective of nature and our society through the lenses of animals and plants. These alternative perspectives open opportunities for nature management from a more relational perspective.

Education

Staff from WEC, FNP, LUP/NatureCollege and possibly other chair groups

We aim to provide students with new perspectives on nature and themselves in the world and to reflect together on the role of humans in nature. We choose for various forms of engaged learning to let the students *experience* nature from new perspectives. By means of place-based, relational and experiential learning we aim to include not only students cognitive (logic, linguistic) intelligences but also stimulate various other forms of intelligence, mainly naturalistic and existential intelligence. These types of intelligence allow students to keep track of (through journaling), understand (through experience) and relate (through reflection and mediation) to the natural world and to reflect on oneself as part of the world. All education takes place outside in order to create an optimal environment for embodied learning. Part of the course will be group work (circa 4 students/group).

Course coordination: Reineke van Tol (FNP), Ignas Heitkönig (WEC), Paul Roncken (NatureCollege-Education, LAR)

Contributions: Koen Arts (FNP, Wildeor), Bas Verschuuren (FNP), Matthijs Schouten (NatureCollege), Louise van der Stok (Otherwise), Mirte van Laarhoven (Living Landscapes), Leonardo van den Berg (Toekomstboeren), Elske Hageraats (Ommuurde Tuin, Toekomstboeren), Dick van der Hoek (Stichting Mooi Binnenveld), Caroline van der Mark (ARK), Boerengroep & Inspiringtheater, Future For Nature Academy, St. Otherwise

Open for: 2nd & 3rd year BSc + MSc students

Maximum participants: 24

Location: Creative garden as home base

Registration: Mail to reineke.vantol@wur.nl

Costs: €15,- for camping and food on Thursday and Friday evening

Schedule: 23-27 August 2021



Learning Goals

Through following this course students should be able to:

- Understand, embody and reflect upon the human-nature relationship from a variety of ontological and epistemological perspectives and in different social and scientific domains
- To reflect upon their own connection to nature
- Embody different animal or plant perspectives to the landscape
- Express new gained perspectives through arts-based expression (design, theatre)
- Explain, understand and reflect upon theory of nature connectedness, landscape design, bushcraft, agroecology, community conservation and cultural history of landscapes

Course Content

Excursions/ workshops (3 days). Focus on the future of the Netherlands from a nature instead of a human perspective.

- Perspectives on nature & meditation in nature
- Participation in nature conservation
- Agroecology, future farmers & relations to the land
- Landscape architecture and management through nature's lens
- Common grounds for biocultural conservation

Walk for Nature, Bushcrafting, Camping (1 day, 1 night)

- Walk through nature with several experts. Viewing nature from an animal/plant perspective. Gathering data for the assignments. Embodiment exercises.
- Tuning in with the elements; learning bushcrafting skills

Working on assignments & presenting outcomes (1 day)

Working on reflection assignment (1 week)

Assignments

Group expression assignment

1. Prepare a short theatre performance based on your experiences, using the tools learned in the workshop with Boerengroep & Inspringtheater
2. Design a new landscape from a plant or animal perspective; use tools from workshop with Myrthe van Laarhoven
3. Write one or multiple nature stories from wild perspectives based on the writing workshop by FFNA & Femke Keeren

Expression assignments are introduced on the first morning. Students have the whole week to gather information, experiences and tools for the assignments. One morning and one afternoon are reserved to work with the group on the assignments. Students present their creations during a campfire session on the last evening.

Individual reflection assignment

By the use of the course literature and additional self-found literature, students write an essay in which they reflect upon their own relation to the natural world, their insights from the course (literature), their experiences in the course assignments and a reflection upon the importance of widening perspectives on the landscape and our own position in the natural world.

Submit final essay by **3 September**, to be assessed by 17 September

Literature: selected papers and reports on each topic (in English) to be provided well in advance, assumed to have been read prior to start of course on 23 August

Assessment

<i>Group expression assignment</i>	40%
<i>Individual reflection assignment</i>	60%

Planning

	Monday 23	Tuesday 24	Wednesday 25	Thursday 26	Friday 27
9h-12h	Introduction & welcome + Assignments + theory (<i>Reineke, Paul & Ignas</i>)	Topic 2: Excursion Ommuurde Tuin: Agroecology & Toekomstboeren (<i>Leonardo van den Berg, Elske Hageraats</i>)	Topic 4: Common grounds for biocultural conservation in the Heelsumse Brook valley (<i>Bas Verschuuren</i>)	Working on assignments/ performances	Walk for Nature <i>Accompanied by</i> (<i>Caroline van der Mark</i>)
12h-13h	LUNCH @ Creative garden	LUNCH @ Ommuurde Tuin	LUNCH @ Beekdal	LUNCH in Nature	LUNCH in Nature
13h-17h	Topic 1: Excursion binnenveld Stichting Mooi Binnenveld (<i>Dick van der Hoek</i>)	Topic 3: Workshop Images of nature & Meditation in Nature (<i>Matthijs Schouten</i>)	Topic 5: Landscape architecture through nature's lens (<i>Mirte van Laarhoven</i>)	Walk for Nature – <i>Accompanied by Otherwise</i> (<i>Louise van der Stok</i>)	Working on assignments/ performances
17h-18h	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
18h-20h	Future For Nature Academy & Femke Keeren – <i>Wild stories</i>	Boerengroep & Inspringtheater; <i>Wild perspectives theatre</i>	Workshop Otherwise: Council of All Beings (<i>Otherwise</i>)	Bushcraft skills + camping (<i>Koen Arts; Wildeor</i>)	Campfire presentations & pizza party

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