

# Writing Assignment 1: What is ecology?

FYOS 1001

8/13/2018

*Rationale.* One of our goals as learners is to modify our beliefs and opinions in response to new information. This requires introspection (to recognize one's existing or prior beliefs and opinions), the acquisition of new information or adoption of a new perspective (on which basis one's prior beliefs or opinions might change), and critical evaluation of the new information or perspective. This assignment seeks to make these steps in the learning process explicit.

*Learning objectives.* The student will be able to identify and summarize a prior belief or opinion. The student will be able to select relevant new information (or point of view for interpreting information) that is inconsistent with that prior belief. The student will engage in some analysis of the new information to determine if and how the prior belief or opinion should be modified.

*Assignment.* Write a two page essay on if and how your understanding of "ecology" has changed through your experience in this class. First, reflect on what you knew about ecology prior to our course. Identify one or more claims presented in your readings of class lectures that are somehow inconsistent with your prior opinions. Evaluate the new information and describe any relevant changes in your perspective on this concept.

Assessment. Essays will be evaluated according to the following writing rubric.

Due: September 17, 2018

Rubric	Excellent	Good	Competent	Ineffective
1. Clear and specific description of prior belief or opinion; analysis how a claim in our class is contrary to this belief or opinion				
2. Reflective critical assessment to evaluate the identified claim in our class				
3. Mechanics of writing (use of paragraphs, clear thesis, logical argument, spelling/grammar); following directions of the assignment				