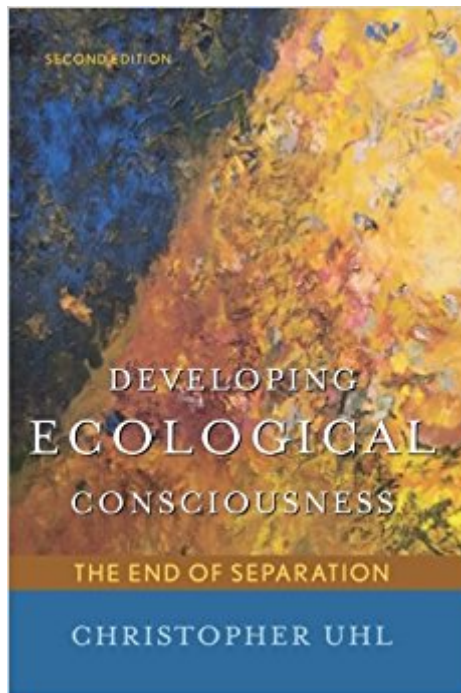




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Developing Ecological Consciousness: The End Of Separation



Synopsis

Developing Ecological Consciousness is a marked departure from those standard environmental studies texts strongly focused on actions that humans need to take to fix the environment. Christopher Uhl explores the path to living in harmony with Earth, and believes it begins not with fixing the environment but with fixing ourselves specifically our perceptions about Earth.

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Customer Reviews

Christopher Uhl at once offers a loving, joyful invitation, and a profound challenge to transform our relationships with Earth. With great clarity and insight, Uhl shows us that the ecological crisis is fundamentally about who we are, as individuals and as a people. I feature Developing Ecological Consciousness in my introductory environmental courses, and my students and I agree: this is a magnificent, one-of-a-kind book. (Greg Lankenau, University Colloquium: A Sustainable Future, Florida Gulf Coast University) Reading Christopher's second edition of Developing Ecological Consciousness has been a homecoming, a reminder of who we are, a reminder of what's really important. It should be required reading for all, because it gives us pause to consider the road we will take. And for the sake of the Earth and for our peace of minds, that will make all the difference. Christopher turns the environmental movement on its head by saying that the question is not how much stuff we can consume and still keep the Earth sustainable, but rather how our lives can nurture the Earth. He uses a variety of devices to accomplish this reorientation. Like

Christopher himself, the book is passionate yet gentle; using poignant quotations, revealing vignettes, and easy-to-understand descriptions of how our planet works. Because *Developing Ecological Consciousness* celebrates the potential of the human spirit, it is uplifting. It brings out the best in the reader. (Steven Lachman, Ph.d, Political Columnist and Environmental Attorney, Pennsylvania State University) Christopher Uhl has been developing his own ecological consciousness since the first edition, as is clear from this significant rewrite of that earlier gem. It is shorter, crisper, and significantly deeper, if that's possible. There is sadness and hope woven in the pages that give us a portrait of the world we share and the relationships that will foretell our common future. He has dug deep to share his collected knowledge and wisdom and opened his heart to all that needs mended. A textbook for sure, but much, much more — a guide to living. (Terry Link, President, Starting Now, LLC) Christopher Uhl provides a book that begins in wonder and concludes with applied hope. *Developing Ecological Consciousness* is a brilliant introduction to the complexities of ecology and mind, and a timely reminder that the world is still rich in possibilities. (David W. Orr, Oberlin College, author of *Hope is an Imperative*) I enjoyed *Developing Ecological Consciousness* so much, I am going to add it to my fall reading list for my Politics, the Environment, and Social Change. course I think so highly of this book for my students in this course that is usually so negative and depressing that having an upbeat book is refreshing and will enhance the course immensely. (Joel Kassiola, San Francisco State University) This book's title proclaims the author's purpose. An important chapter discusses economism and separation. According to Uhl, economism is central to the life stories of people today. Individuals see things in terms of money, without understanding the consequences of their actions on the Earth and on others. The author sees economism as a pseudo religion and believes the present time is an "age of separation." Uhl attempts, by description and by suggesting experiences to participate in, to point the way toward changing society so that people are no longer as separated and see the world through a non-economistic worldview. This edition (1st ed., 2004) is 100 pages shorter than the original, with new content added and outdated material removed. The first edition, says the author, concentrated on sustainability. However, he came to believe that even working hard toward sustainability will not get people out of the environmental mess they are plunging into. Radical changes are needed. He is probably right, and absorbing this book would help that. Although there is some scientific ecology in the book, it is an environmental stewardship work, not an ecology text. It is well edited, with a good index and documentation. Summing Up: Recommended. All levels/libraries. (CHOICE) Christopher Uhl's *Developing Ecological Consciousness* is an engaging book that, to its credit, does not sit squarely within any particular

academic field or school of thought. Part science text, part philosophical treatise, its main lines of argumentation are remarkably similar to those of the Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess and other figures in the deep ecology movement. Uhl himself is a scientific ecologist and not a philosopher, but he plays both roles well here as he encourages his readers to re-assess their proper place in nature. . . .[I]t surely would be a very useful course book, especially for more general courses covering topics in environmental studies and environmental education. . . .Developing Ecological Consciousness is a fine book. It is, moreover, one that is eminently readable and that carries an optimistic message. Thus it does precisely what it appears to be intended to do: speak to a wide audience, engage students, and bring hope to twenty-first century environmentalism. (Biological Conservation)

From the first edition: The book's greatest potential may be as an innovative textbook for the professor of introductory ecology who wants to motivate students to internalize the web of life into their psyches. (Environment)[Uhl] combines ecological information with anecdotes from his personal life, and employs a narrative style that is quick to read and easily accessible. (Ecology)If you only read one book about sustainability, make it Developing Ecological Consciousness by Christopher Uhl. This readable and inspiring book has remarkable scope, literally from the Big Bang to the practice of loving kindness. It also ranges from well-grounded science clearly explained to philosophy and personal reflection. (Trends)Developing Ecological Consciousness powerfully blends information, insight, and inspiration. (Friends Journal)A remarkably useful contribution to the literature on the crisis in human relations with Earth and the whole debate over creating sustainability. Developing Ecological Consciousness is a book for the college classroom and for community groups of all kinds. It is a useful resource in terms of its information content, which is provided in sensible amounts for the layperson to take in. But this information is seen as feeding into an experiential process. That is the whole mission of the book: to help us form new contours in the landscape of our greatest asset—our consciousness. This book can be used to support the journeys of all individuals who are venturing onto the path of building a sustainable world. Christopher Uhl has a beautiful style of writing and writes with a quality of deep authenticity that is very refreshing. (Earthlight)Meant as both a textbook and as a general reader, this book effectively marries scientific content with a conviction that the way to solve environmental and social problems comes not from legislation or technology, but from humankind's awakened and caring hearts. Recommended. (F. T. Kuserk, Moravian College)Anyone who reads Christopher Uhl's writing will come away with something of value, but two groups will benefit most: people who already

appreciate the environment, but want inspiration to take the next step toward sustainable living; and teachers and parents who want to reframe today's environmental issues in a way that reaches their students/children at the gut level. (Steve Lachman, Sierra) --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I've been looking for a text that will help me connect students with Earth, Earth's current crises, and offer training and inspiration for a way forward with hope. There are many excellent environmental science texts on the market, however they don't create the grounding and guidelines for reflection and cultural map re-evaluation necessary for development of the mindset we need for truly creating an Earth where humans can continue to thrive. I'm thrilled to have found the second edition of Christopher Uhl's "Developing Ecological Consciousness: The end of Separation" (2013). This is exactly the type of text I need: it begins with grounding readers in place (Earth!), delivers the hard truths of the declines in Earth systems (with succinct facts and excellent examples), and then ends with examining our cultural story and then inspiration and ideas for ACTION. It beautifully integrates connection, reflection and knowledge. All in 241 pages of well written, thought provoking text. HIGHLY recommended reading for all students of Earth that want to help humans continue to thrive. Wow and Wow. I'm going to be undertaking the journey of this book with my students this semester.

I read this book for a class on the environment and sustainability and absolutely loved it! The way Uhl words things and puts everything into perspective is amazing! He takes concepts that are so complicated and simplifies them in ways that are easy to understand. He gently forces you to open your eyes about what is going on with the world around us. At the end of every chapter there are activities that make you put what you've just read in to action and see how just a small change in perspective can make such a difference in the way you view everything. I would highly recommend this book to anyone and everyone!

This book uses both philosophy and up to date scientific research in creating a book that teaches spirituality through the lenses of logic and personal awareness. It is a must read for all environmentalists.

An exceptional book for understanding the world and building an intuitive and emotional rapport with your environmental ethics.

eh, it's a book

What's going on here? A surprisingly coherent life philosophy woven into what is nothing more than an intro ecological text. But that appearance is merely superficial, and there is a lot more to dig into. I learned a lot about my own thought process and its inevitable influences from Western, consumerist culture even down to personal notions of the self, and of success against failure. But what I didn't learn about as much was actual ecology. As much psychology as anything else, although always with the interconnectedness and wonder of nature as the baseline thought-process. These latter concepts are delivered repeatedly and effectively, and they are certainly worth considering. Perhaps the title is more descriptive than it first appears, as the book is more about cultivating a kind of 'ecological consciousness' than it is strictly ecological. This is amenable if taken by itself, but it may also not be something you're looking for so it's good to be aware. I certainly had my assumptions about what it would be when I started reading, but they were quickly, and I believe, valuably, disproven after the first couple of chapters. The more reflective and Socratic sections are where the book shines, if only by forcing you to consider the mundane in a new light. As Whitehead says, "Philosophy begins and ends in wonder." Although I wish it was slightly more coherent and focused, I also believe it would be weaker overall with fewer digressions. The author's stories and reflections are often the most memorable parts. So it seems there's not much to change. Certainly well worth reading if you want to move beyond the faults of the present world and consider its possible, interconnected futures. (To say nothing of your own faults and potential futures.)

Developing Ecological Consciousness reads like a philosophical Viewmaster. Each chapter acts like a pull of the reel, bringing a new slide before the reader. With each chapter Uhl introduces the reader to a new concept of awareness. These are done through parable, narration and a Semiotic concept called Umwelt. Each of these allows the reader to visualize not only concepts of community and relationships, but concepts of human nature and human value. Dutifully noted citations and scientific reference anchor this book, and synthesize its message for readers of almost any age. Uhl's progressive writing style builds upon each successive chapter and culminates with the tools and awareness once used to understand others being turned upon the reader. The last chapter and epilogue implore the reader to discover what they truly want and believe about our world. Uhl makes good on his promise and it is impossible to read this book without attaining a new perception of our community and life on Earth.

Picking up this book is one of the best decisions a person can make. Dr. Chris Uhl has the amazing ability to insert humanity into the study of science. By this, I simply mean that he recognizes the complexity of the human spirit and its capacity to feel deeply. Instead of ignoring emotion or dampening it, he offers its full expression in a beautiful celebration of what it means to be alive and to be surrounded by life. The natural world is seen through a lens of deep compassion, understanding, and excitement, which can't help but leave the reader empowered, enlightened, and honestly tender. Into this newly opened spirit, he then pours the challenges facing this amazing planet we live on and the very real dangers and hurt that have been created in recent years. Following this, he offers sorely needed ways to heal and make changes that can actually right many of the wrongs he discusses and bring an individual more fully into presence, peace, and relationship with life. The book is so wonderfully written, and bursting with soulfulness, genuineness, and beauty, that once it is picked up, it is unlikely to be put down any time soon.

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