

PHIL 2380A – INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

FALL 2015

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Prof: Jason Millar

Email: jason.millar@carleton.ca

Office: Paterson 3A54

Office Hours: Thursdays 11:00-12:00.

This course precludes additional credit for PHIL 1804.

Contacting Me (your prof): I encourage you to contact either myself, or the course TAs, with any questions or concerns. The best way to get in touch with me is email. **Be sure to include the following text in ALL emails or I cannot guarantee your email will get through my filters: “PHIL 2380”.**

TA INFORMATION

Course TA(s) will be assigned in the first two weeks of the course. Please check cuLearn for information about their office hours.

COURSE INFORMATION

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:05 – 5:25 pm

Location: Southam Hall THB

Course Website: I'll be using cuLearn for this course. You should check it regularly (at least once a week, probably more) for important messages, scheduling information, readings, assignment or exam information, and other important information. You will be responsible for keeping current with the information on cuLearn.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Environmental issues have come to occupy a central place in policy, and society at large. Owing largely to the many environmental consequences that have accompanied industrialization, we humans have been forced to rethink our relationship with technology and nature. What is nature, and what role do humans occupy in or outside of it? What role should we occupy? What, if anything, do we owe non-human members of the biotic or abiotic community? What do we owe future generations? How do we balance technological benefits against their environmental harms? What philosophical tools are useful in answering these questions? How should answers to these questions factor in public policy? These are some of the central questions we will investigate in this course.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast philosophical theories and concepts related to the environment.
2. Apply environmental theories and concepts to prepare a basic policy position piece.
3. Compare policy options in order to formulate policy recommendations.
4. Present a topic in environmental philosophy to peers.
5. Justify particular ethical positions using clear argumentation.
6. Analyze the social implications of particular technologies using the methods, theories and concepts introduced in the course.

COURSE TEXT

Required Text (Available at the campus bookstore): Robbins, P., Hintz, J., Moore, S.A. (2014). *Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction* (2nd ed.). (Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell).

Other Readings: Other readings, videos, and news sources may be assigned throughout the course. Please keep current on cuLearn for any additions to the course readings.

PEDAGOGY

As much as possible, I will be planning classes using a “flipped class” approach in which students support each other in learning activities. This means that I will minimize traditional lecturing in favour of peer learning. However, it is my expectation that you arrive to class having read the required readings and **attend all classes**. Material that is introduced in class (but not in the text) will be fair game on all exams/assignments. You should arrange to get notes from a friend/colleague if you are unable to attend class in person. My hope is that you come away from this course with an appreciation for the topics, and a genuine interest in pursuing further studies in philosophy.

STUDENT EVALUATION

Policy Brief: (30% of overall course grade) Students will be required to submit one written policy brief. Details will be distributed in class.

Mid-Term Exam: (30% of overall course grade) in-class exam. Details will be distributed in class.

Final Exam: (40% of overall course grade); exam will take place during the regularly scheduled exam period. Details will be distributed in class.

NOTE: Assignment due dates/times and any associated late penalties will be discussed in class and specified on assignment instructions sheets distributed on cuLearn.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Sept 3: Course Syllabus

Sept 8 (ONLINE – No Class): A (very) brief overview of Ethics; CH 1 - Introduction

Sept 10: A (very) brief overview of Ethics (cont.); CH 2 – Populations

Sept 15/17: CH 3 – Markets and Commodities

Sept 22/24: CH 4 – Institutions and the Commons

Sept 29/Oct 1: CH 5 – Environmental Ethics

Oct 6/8: CH 6 – Risks and Hazards

Oct 13/15: CH 7 – Political Economy

Oct 20: *In-Class Mid-term*

Oct 22: TBD

Oct 27/29: Fall Break - No Classes

Nov 3: CH 9: CO₂

Nov 3: CH 9: CO₂ (cont.): *Policy Brief Assignment Due at Beginning of Class (hard copy)*

Nov 10/12: The Hartwell Paper

Nov 17/19: CH 15 – Bottled Water

Nov 24/26: CH 16 – French Fries

Dec 1/3: CH 17 – eWaste

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2015-16)

Assignments:

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper (there is a stapler on the essay box)
- must include the following:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- Assignments handed in through the essay box (just inside the glass doors, Paterson Hall, Floor 3A) must be dropped into the box by **4:15** on a regular business day in order to be date-stamped with that day's date. Assignments handed in after 4:15 or on a non-business day will be stamped as having been handed in on the next business day.
- Students are required to keep copies of their assignments. If your paper is lost at any point, you will be considered not to have submitted it if you cannot produce a copy immediately on request.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 14.3, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Religious obligation: write to your professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure

accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

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| Sept. 2 | Classes start. |
| Sept. 4 | Classes follow a Monday schedule. |
| Sept. 7 | Labour Day - University closed. |
| Sept. 18 | Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses. |
| Sept. 30 | Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses. |
| Oct. 12 | Thanksgiving Day – University closed. |
| Oct. 26-30 | Fall Break – no classes. |
| Nov. 24 | Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period. |
| Dec. 7 | Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses. |
| Dec. 7 | Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only). |
| Dec. 8 | No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced. |
| Dec. 9-21 | Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week. |
| Dec. 21 | Take-home exams are due. |
| Jan. 6 | Winter term classes begin. |
| Jan. 19 | Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes. |
| Jan. 31 | Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses. |
| Feb. 15-19 | Winter Break, no classes. |
| Mar. 24 | Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period. |
| Mar. 25 | Good Friday – University closed. |
| Apr. 8 | Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses. |
| Apr. 8 | Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only). |
| Apr. 9-10 | No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced. |
| Apr. 11-23 | Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week. |
| Apr. 23 | Take-home exams are due. |

Addresses:

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| Department of Philosophy: | 3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110 |
| Registrar's Office: | 300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500 |
| Student Academic Success Centre: | 302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850 |
| Writing Tutorial Service: | 4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632 |
| MacOdrum Library | http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735 |