

PHIL 2380A – INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

SUMMER 2016

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Prof: Jason Millar

Email: jason.millar@carleton.ca

Office: Paterson 3A54

Office Hours: By appointment.

This course precludes additional credit for PHIL 1804.

Contacting Me (your prof): I encourage you to contact me 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

N/A.

COURSE INFORMATION

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:05 – 8:55 pm

Location: AP 132

Course Website: I'll be using cuLearn for this course. You should check it regularly (at least twice 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. Apply theories and concepts in environmental ethics to analyze/interpret a work of art.
5. Justify particular ethical positions using clear argumentation.
6. Analyze the ethical and environmental implications of particular artefacts and practices using the methods, theories and concepts introduced in the course.

COURSE TEXT

Required Text (Available new and used 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

Artist Reflection: (30% of overall course grade); This assignment will involve a guided tour of the Carleton University Art Gallery and will revolve around interpreting/analyzing a piece of art in relation to the course material. Details will be distributed in class.

Group Policy Brief: (30% of overall course grade); This is a group assignment (4-5 students). Details will be distributed in class.

Cumulative Final Exam: (40% of overall course grade); Exam will take place during the regularly scheduled exam period. The exam will cover material from the entire course. 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

May

3: Course Syllabus; A (very) brief overview of Ethics

5: CH 1 - Introduction; CH 2 – Populations

10: CH 3 – Markets and Commodities

12: CH 4 – Institutions and the Commons

17: CH 5 – Environmental Ethics; Food Inc.

19: Group Policy Brief In-Class Workshop

24: CH 6 – Risks and Hazards; **Group Policy Brief Due**

26: CH 7 –Political Economy; Primitive Accumulation

31: Carleton University Art Gallery (CUAG) field trip. Note: The CUAG assignment is directly associated with this field trip, so **you should treat the field trip as mandatory.**

June

2: The Hartwell Paper

7 (Online Class): The Lorax (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8V06ZQQuo0k>); The Lorax Online Activity (cuLearn)

9 (Online Class): Radiolab: The Rhino Hunter (MP3 on cuLearn); The Rhino Hunter Online activity (cuLearn); **Artist Reflection Due**

14: CH 17 – eWaste; Final Exam details distributed.

June 17-23: Official Exam Period. Final Exam date/time TBD.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 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:

May 2	Classes start.
May 9	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>early</u> summer courses.
May 13	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>full</u> summer courses.
May 20	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from early and full summer courses.
May 23	Statutory holiday, university closed.
June 7	Last day for tests or examinations in early and full Summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
June 14	Last day for early summer 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 courses that end on this day.
June 14	Last day for academic withdrawal from early summer courses.
June 17-23	Final examinations.
July 1	Statutory holiday, university closed.
July 4	Late summer courses begin and full summer courses resume.
July 11	Last day for registration and course changes for late summer courses.
July 25	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from late summer courses.
Aug. 1	Statutory holiday, university closed
Aug. 2	Last day for tests or examinations in <u>full</u> Summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
Aug. 9	Last day for tests or examinations in <u>late</u> Summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
Aug. 16	Last day for late and full summer 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 courses that end on this day.
Aug. 16	Last day for academic withdrawal from late summer and full summer courses.
Aug. 19-25	Final examinations.

Addresses:

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