

## **PHL 2380: Environmental Ethics**

**Fall 2010**

**Tues-Thurs 6-7:30**

Professor: Vida Panitch

Office: Paterson 3A55

Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:30 – 5:00, or by appointment

Email: [vida\\_panitch@carleton.ca](mailto:vida_panitch@carleton.ca)

### **Course Description**

Why is the natural environment valuable? Does it possess value only insofar as it provides us with some instrumental good or does it have inherent worth independent of that which human beings derive from it? Should we therefore be concerned to preserve and protect the natural world for its own sake rather than for our own? How might the answers we give to these questions inform our environmental activism and our public policies? These are the questions this course will address. We will begin by looking at various arguments philosophers and ecologists have offered as to the matter of the natural world's value. We will then turn to an assessment of various strategies that have been proposed and pursued in the name of respecting and/or preserving our natural environment, and explore the extent to which moral conflicts can arise in our pursuit of these strategies.

### **Course Text:**

*Environmental Ethics: What Really Matters, What Really Works*, David Schmidtz and Elizabeth Willott, eds. OUP 2002

This text is available for purchase from the Carleton Bookstore

### **Course Assignments**

- Two critical response essays (4 pages in length) 20% each. In these assignments students will be asked to exposit and critically assess the merits of arguments put forward by authors covered in the course. No outside research is expected or encouraged. The task is to engage philosophically with a single idea or argument we will have discussed.
- In class mid-term 25 %. To be written in-class on October 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Final take home exam 35%. Questions distributed on the last day of class and due by 5 pm on the last day of the winter exam period.

## Course Schedule

### Week One: What is Environmental Ethics?

Sept 9: Introduction to the Course

### Week Two: The Moral Foundations of Environmentalism

Sept 14: Aldo Leopold, *The Land Ethic* (27-33)

Holmes Rolston III, *Values in and Duties to the Natural World* (33-38)

Sept 16: Bill Devall and George Sessions, *Deep Ecology* (120-126)

Murray Bookchin, *Social Ecology, Versus Deep Ecology* (126-137)

### Week Three: Animal Liberation and Species Equality

Sept 21: Peter Singer, *All Animals are Equal* (17-27)

Bob Sagoff, *Animal Liberation and Environmental Ethics: Bad Marriage, Quick Divorce* (38-44)

Sept 23: Joel Feinberg, *The Rights of Animals* (50-58)

Tom Regan, *How to Worry about Endangered Species* (105-108)

### Week Four: Is Species Equality Defensible?

Sept 28: Christopher D. Stone, *Should Trees have Standing? Toward Legal Rights for Natural Objects*. (46-50)

Paul W. Taylor, *The Ethics of Respect for Nature* (83-96)

David Schmidtz. *Are all Species Equal?* (96-103)

Sept 30: Elliot Sober: *Philosophical Problems for Environmentalism* (145-157)

### Week Five: Can We (and Should We) Preserve Nature?

Oct 5: Martin Krieger, *What's Wrong with Plastic Trees?* (159-172)

#### First Critical Essay Due Today

Oct 7: Thomas E. Hill Jr., *Ideals of Human Excellence and Preserving Natural Environments* (189-199)

### Week Six: Nature and the Good Life

Oct 12: Lester Milbrath, *Redefining the Good Life in a Sustainable Society* (199-205)  
Bob Sagoff, *Do we Consume too Much?* (205-221)

Oct 14 Kristin Hessler and Elizabeth Willott, *Feminism and Ecofeminism* (232-234)  
Karen J. Warren, *The Power and Promise of Ecological Feminism* (234-248)

### Week Seven: Eco-feminism

Oct 19: Gita Sen, *Women, Poverty, and Population: Issues for the Concerned Environmentalist* (248-255)

V. Rukmini Rao, *Women Farmers of India's Deccan Plateau; Ecofeminists Challenge World Elites* (255-265)

Oct 21: **In Class Midterm**

## **Week Eight: Human Population**

Oct 26: Joel Feinberg, *Future Generations* (266-267)  
Clark Wolf, *Population, Development and the Environment* (267-274)  
Elizabeth Willott, *Recent Population Trends* (274-283)

Oct 28: Garrett Hardin, *Tragedy of the Commons* (331-341)  
Garrett Hardin, *Living on a Lifeboat* (374-386)

## **Week Nine: Poverty as an Environmental Problem**

Nov 2: David Schmidtz, *The Institution of Property* (361-372)

Nov 4: Peter Singer, *Famine, Affluence, Morality* (386-394)

## **Week Ten: Poverty as an Environmental Problem**

Nov 9: Henry Shue, *Global Environment and International Inequality* (394-404)

Nov 11: Holmes Rolston III, *Feeding People Versus Saving Nature* (404-417)

## **Week Eleven: Progress and the Ethics of Cost-Benefit Analysis**

Nov 16: Gregg Easterbrook, *Why the Good News Shouldn't Scare You* (430-434)  
Paul Ehrlich and Anne Ehrlich, *The Good News in Perspective* (443-453)

**Second Critical Essay Due Today**

Nov 18: Steven Kelman, *Cost-Benefit Analysis: And Ethical Critique* (455-462)  
Herman B. Leonard and Richard J. Zeckhauser, *Cost-Benefit Analysis Defended* (462-466)  
David Schmidtz, *A Place for Cost-Benefit Analysis* (479-491)

## **Week Twelve: Environmental Activism**

Nov 23: Bryan G. Norton, *The Environmentalists' Dilemma; Dollars and Sand Dollars* (594-501)  
Bryan G. Norton, *Fragile Freedoms* (501-505)  
Paul Watson, *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (524-529)

Nov 25: Kate Rawles, *The Missing Shade of Green* (535-546)  
J. Baird Callicott, *Environmental Philosophy is Environmental Activism: The Most Radical and Effective Kind* (546-555)

## **Week Thirteen: Moving Forward...**

Nov 30: David Schmidtz, *Natural Enemies: An Anatomy of Environmental Conflict* (417-424).  
Andrew Light: *Taking Environmental Ethics Public* (pp. 556-566)

Dec 3: Course Conclusion and Discussion of Take-Home Exam

# Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies

## **Assignments:**

Unless specifically told otherwise by their instructors, students:

- must not use a plastic or cardboard cover or paper clips
- must staple the paper
- must include the following in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work.
- 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, page 56 or <http://www.carleton.ca/cu0809uc/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>

## **Academic Accommodation:**

**For Students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Merton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC every term to have a Letter of Accommodation sent to the Instructor by their Coordinator. In addition, students are expected to confirm their need for accommodation with the Instructor no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm. If you require accommodations only for formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, you must request accommodations by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term.

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student

and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website [www.carleton.ca/equity/holy\\_days/](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/holy_days/) for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies.

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

## **Important Dates:**

Sept. 9	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 22	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall term and two-term courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 8	University Day – no classes.
Oct. 11	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Nov. 22	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 6	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Dec. 6	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 9-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Jan. 3	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 14	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. 21	Family Day – university closed
Feb. 21-25	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 23	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 5	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Apr. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 7-21	Final Examinations.

## **Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:	3A46 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a>
Registrar's Office:	520-2110 300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a>
Student Academic Success Centre:	520-3500 302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a>
Paul Merton Centre:	520-7850 500 University Centre <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/pmc">www.carleton.ca/pmc</a>
Writing Tutorial Service:	520-6608 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/wts">www.carleton.ca/wts</a>
MacOdrum Library	520-6632 <a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca">www.library.carleton.ca</a> 520-2735