

PHIL2380a Introduction to Environmental Ethics  
Winter 2014  
Syllabus

**Instructor Information**

**Course instructor:** Deirdre Kelly

**Office location:** 2205 Dunton Tower

**E-mail:** Please contact me through the CULearn course site

**Office hours:** Thursdays 4-5PM or by appointment

**Teaching Assistant Information**

TBA

**Course Information**

Winter 2014, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35-3:55PM

**Course title:** Introduction to Environmental Ethics

**Department:** Philosophy

**Course number:** PHIL2380a

**Course website address, newsgroup, if applicable:**

CULearn will be used for access to the course syllabus, lecture slides, marks, and other course material. It is required that students regularly check in to CULearn (minimum once per week) for course updates and other information.

**Course Description**

This course takes a practically informed approach to environmental ethics. It establishes a foundational understanding of ethics and ethical terms. Building on this, students are provided with an overview of core theories in environmental ethics and will be challenged to consider the following kinds of questions:

*Do we have obligations to future generations?*

*What is ethically required of us concerning animal welfare?*

*Can an ecosystem have moral standing?*

*What do we owe the natural world?*

Use of multimedia and popular examples will be used to help better convey these theories.

The final weeks of the term will be used to consider the ways in which environmental ethics are grounded in real-life and practical concerns, looking at, among others, issues of pollution control and sustainable development.

**Course Text**

The textbook used for this course is **Environmental Ethics: An Interactive Introduction** (2012) by Andrew Kernohan. It will be available in the Carleton University bookstore.

Purchase of this book also provides students with access to online study material. For access you need the passcode provided with the book. The website is at: <http://broadviewpress.com/enviroethics/>

Additional readings will occasionally be recommended. They will be announced in advance in lecture and on CULearn.

## Evaluation

Grades will be based on a midterm examination and a take home essay.

### MIDTERM EXAMINATION

**Worth:** 40%

**Exam date:** Thursday, February 13, 2014

**Format:** Multiple Choice/Short Answer

### TAKE HOME EXAMINATION

**Value:** 60%

**Date:** Due on the final day of exams, April 26, 2014

**Paper length:** 8 pages or up to 2000 words

**Where to submit:** Submit electronically via CuLearn before midnight on the day the assignment is due.

Any deferrals for the final exam must be submitted to the registrar's office (see policies below).

## Class Schedule

(Academic articles, videos, and other resources may be added at instructor's discretion throughout the semester)

Date	Topic	Reading
2014-01-07	Syllabus overview Introduction to environmental ethics	Chapter 1
2014-01-09	Metaethics, Ethical Analysis,	Chapters 2, 3
2014-01-14	Ethical Egoism, Utilitarianism	Chapters 4, 5
2014-01-16	Virtue Ethics	Chapter 6
2014-01-21	Rights, Justice	Chapters 7,8
2014-01-23	Obligations to Distant People	Chapter 9
2014-01-28	Future generations	Chapter 10
2014-01-30	Animal welfare	Chapter 11 <a href="http://www.care2.com/causes/do-vegetarians-kill-more-animals-than-meat-eaters.html">http://www.care2.com/causes/do-vegetarians-kill-more-animals-than-meat-eaters.html</a>
2014-02-04	Animal rights	Chapter 12 Singer (1988) "All Animals Are Equal"
2014-02-06	Biocentric ethics	Chapter 13
2014-02-11	Ecocentric ethics	Chapter 14
2014-02-13	<b>Midterm Examination</b>	No reading
2014-02-25	Ecology	No reading
2014-03-04	Ecofeminism	Chapter 15

2014-03-06	Deep Ecology	Chapter 16
2014-03-11	Ethics and economics	Chapter 17
2014-03-13	Free-market environmentalism	Chapter 18
2014-03-18	External costs and public goods	Chapter 19
2014-03-20	Cost benefit analysis	Chapter 20
2014-03-25	Precautionary principles	Chapter 21
2014-03-27	Pollution control	Chapter 22 <a href="http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/environment/recycling/4291566">http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/environment/recycling/4291566</a> <a href="http://discovermagazine.com/2009/jul-aug/06-when-recycling-is-bad-for-the-environment#.UnaK4vIQGDk">http://discovermagazine.com/2009/jul-aug/06-when-recycling-is-bad-for-the-environment#.UnaK4vIQGDk</a>
2014-04-01	Sustainable development	Chapter 23
2014-04-03	The market worldview	Chapter 24
2014-04-08	Semester overview Essay questions	No reading
2014-04-26	<b>Take home examination due</b>	

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2013-14)

### **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 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 – 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://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html#14.3>)

### **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 me 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 me 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](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me 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 me 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:**

Sept. 5	Classes start (after Orientation events).
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. 14	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Oct. 28 –	
Nov. 1	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 9	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. 9	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 11-22	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Dec. 22	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	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. 17-21	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 25	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
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. 11-26	Final Examinations. Exams will not be held Apr. 18-20.
Apr. 18	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 26	Take-home exams are due.

### **Addresses:**

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