**PHIL 2380 – Introduction to Environmental Ethics**

**Department of Philosophy, Carleton University**

**Winter 2023**

**0.5 credit**

In-Person Blended Course – all components of the course are mandatory

Lecturer: Dr. Kate Lawson

Contact Hours: By Appointment

E-mail: [kathryn.m.lawson@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.m.lawson@gmail.com)

Class Timings: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am – 11:30am EST

Location: TBA

Teaching Assistant: TBA

Contact Hours: by appointment

Email: TBA

**Calendar Course Description:**

Major questions in environmental ethics: What is the distinction between human beings and nature? How should human beings view their relationship to nature? Is responsible stewardship of the environment compatible with capitalism? Must future generations be protected? Do animals, other life forms, endangered species, ecosystems and/or the biosphere have value/rights?

**Course Description:**

This course addresses a series of questions relevant to the evaluation of environmental issues from a philosophical perspective. 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 preserve and protect the natural world for its own sake or simply for our own? How might the answers we give to these questions inform our environmental activism and our public policies? In an attempt to address these questions, the course will look at various arguments philosophers have offered regarding the natural world’s value, and assess various strategies that have been proposed and pursued in the name of respecting and/or preserving our natural environment. Material for this course draws from historical and contemporary philosophy across various schools and traditions. While the course will be accessible to students with non-philosophical backgrounds, its methods of evaluation will prepare students to succeed in upper-level courses in ethics and social and political philosophy.

The aim of this course is to provide students with a comprehensive introduction to various global strands of environmental ethics. This course is an in-person blended course, meaning that it combines both in-person synchronous and online asynchronous components. Please note that all components of this course are mandatory – students are required to do the readings, listen to the recorded lectures, attempt all quizzes and assignments, as well as attend in-person classes. Please refer to the class schedule for more details.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course students will

* gain a comprehensive understanding of important concepts, methods, assumptions and ambiguities of debates in environmental ethics
* learn how to apply phenomenological experience in the world to ethical issues in environmental philosophy
* be able to present written work on key critical perspectives, in both descriptive and evaluative ways, on various topics in environmental ethics
* be introduced to and learn more about philosophical methods through argumentation in moral philosophy in relation to debates on the environment

**Teaching Philosophy:**

This course has been designed to enhance student-centered learning. Critical analysis and self-reflection are key to the learning mechanisms in this course. Learning involves not only gaining new information but also a critical and ethical application of this newly gained knowledge. In this course we will focus on both these aspects of learning.

**Assignments:**

1. **Quizzes – 30%**

There will be a total of 15 quizzes, and each quiz will be worth 2%. Questions will be based on the readings and lectures. All quizzes will be conducted online, the link can be accessed under the ‘Assignments’ tab on Brightspace. A detailed quiz schedule is available in this syllabus. All quizzes are open throughout the course, and will close on the last day of classes.

1. **Midterm - 20%**

Midterm – 09 Feb 2023

The midterm will be conducted online as a range assignment. Midterm will consist of MCQs, short and long answers. Midterm review documents, detailing the syllabus, questions format etc., and the link to the assignment are available on Brightspace.

1. **Assignment- 20%**

Environmental Attention Assignment- 07 Mar 2023

The assignment will be handed in through Brightspace. It will be between 400 and 500 words, double spaced, times new roman font. It will be graded on three components: (1) an understanding of Freya Matthews’ text “Letting the world Grow Old” from our textbook, (2) your application of Matthews’ text to your own environmental attention fieldwork (which we will discuss and practice in class on 07- Feb), and (3) your grammar, sentence structure, and coherence. Questions and writing workshop for this assignment will take place in-person on 02-Mar.

1. **Final Exam – 30%**

This will be a scheduled, online, range exam consisting of MCQs, short and long answer questions. A Final Exam Review document containing the syllabus, format, and scope of the final exam is available on Brightspace. The final exam is not cumulative.

**Note - Absence from any examination must be justified by valid documentation (e.g. letter from a doctor). Only students with valid documentation will be permitted to write a make-up test/exam.**

**Students who furnish a valid medical note or a** [**self-declaration form**](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https:/carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf) **are qualified to reschedule assignments. Please note that in order to reschedule the Final Exam, you will need to contact Examination Services at the Registrar’s Office.**

**Reading Schedule:**

* Textbook – *What Really Matters, What Really Works, Third Edition,* David Schmidtz and Dan C. Shahar. The textbook can be purchased [here](https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/environmental-ethics-david-schmidtz-dan-c-shahar-v9780197547571).
* Electronic versions of all other readings are available on the course website.

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| **PHIL2380 - Class Schedule**  In-Person Blended Course - All Components are Mandatory | | |
| 10-Jan | Introduction to the course | In person class |
| 12-Jan | How we Got Here | Textbook  Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Nature" pp. 25-28 Gifford Pinchot, "Principles of Conservation" pp. 28-30 Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic" pp. 33-38 |
| In person Lecture |
| Quiz – link on Brightspace |
| 17-Jan | Controlling Nature | Textbook  Genesis 1:20-1:31 pp. 51 John Stuart Mill, "On Nature" pp. 51- 55 Aldo Leopold, "Thinking Like a Mountain" pp. 62-63 Rachel Carson, "Silent Spring" pp.63-66 |
| In person lecture |
| Quiz – link on Brightspace |
| 19-Jan | Human Beings: Suffering and Excellence | Textbook  Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality" pp. 67- 74  Philip Cafaro, "Thoreau, Leopold, and Carson: Toward an Environmental Virtue Ethics" pp 101-107 |
| In person Lecture |
| Quiz – link on Brightspace |
| 24-Jan | Animal Suffering | Textbook  Traditional Perspectives:  Thomas Aquinas, "Whether It Is Unlawful to Kill Any Living Thing" pp. 113 Immanuel Kant, "Duties towards Animals" pp. 114 Jeremy Bentham, "Can They Suffer?" pp. 115  Contemporary Perspectives: Peter Singer, "All Animals are Equal" pp. 118- 127 Tom Regan, "The Case for Animal Rights" pp. 128- 135 |
| In person lecture |
| Quiz – link on Brightspace |
| 26-Jan | Wilderness | Textbook  J. Baird Callicott, "Holistic Environmental Ethics and the Problem of Ecofascism" pp 188- 192 Ned Hettinger & Bill Throop, "Refocusing Ecocentrism: De-emphasizing Stability and Defending Wildness" 193- 200 |
| Asynchronous lecture posted on Brightspace |
| No Quiz |
| 31-Jan | Nature | Textbook:  Val Plumwood, "Being Prey" pp 241- 246 Arne Naess, "The Shallow and the Deep, Long-Range Ecology Movement: A Summary" pp. 246- 249 Bill Devall and George Sessions, "Deep Ecology" pp. 249- 254 |
| Asynchronous lecture posted on Brightspace |
| No Quiz |
| 02-Feb | Ecology and Imperialism | Textbook:  Ramachandra Guha, "Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique" pp. -277- 284 David Schmidtz, "When Preservationism Doesn't Preserve" pp. 284-293 |
| Asynchronous lecture posted on Brightspace |
| No Quiz |
| 07-Feb | Environment Walk | No reading this week |
| In Person Discussion on Environmental Attention |
| No Quiz |
| 09-Feb | Midterm | Link on Brightspace |
| No in-person class |
| No Quiz |
| 14-Feb | Conflicting Values, Conflicting Priorities | Ramachandra Guha, "Deep Ecology Revisited" pp. 307- 311 David Schmidtz, "Natural Enemies: An Anatomy of Environmental Conflict" pp. 311- 318 Henry Shue, "Global Environment and International Inequality" pp.328-334 |
| In person lecture |
| Quiz- link on Brightspace |
| 16-Feb | Feminist Ecological Ethics | Textbook:  Daniel Silvermint, "Three Models of Oppression" pp. 335- 337 Kristen Hessler and Elizabeth Willott, "Feminism and Ecofeminism" pp. 344-345 Karen J. Warren, "The Power and Promise of Ecological Feminism" pp.346- 357 |
| In Person Lecture |
| Quiz – link on Brightspace |
| 21-Feb | Reading Week | No Class |
| 23-Feb | Reading Week | No Class |
| 28- Feb | Urban Ecology and Modern Life | Textbook:  Adriana Zuniga-Teran, "Urban Ecology" pp. 565- 572  Bill McKibben, "Deep Economy" pp.576- 580  Freya Mathews, "Letting the World Grow Old" pp. 602- 609 |
| In -person class |
| Quiz- link on Brightspace |
| 02- Mar | How to write in philosophy | No reading |
| In person Class on writing and the Environmental Attention Project |
| No Quiz |
| 07- Mar | Land | Textbook:  Garrett Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons" pp. 359- 364 Carol M. Rose, "Liberty, Property, and Environmentalism" pp. 378- 395 |
| In-person Class |
| Environmental Attention Project Due- submit on Brightspace |
| 09-Mar | At What Cost? | Textbook:  J.H. Dales, "Simple Problems, Simple Solutions" pp. 407-413 Steven Kelman, "Cost-Benefit Analysis: An Ethical Critique" pp. 413-420 Kristin Shrader-Frechette, "Environmental Justice" pp.420- 431 |
| In-Person Class |
| Quiz – link on Brightspace |
| 14-Mar | Food | Textbook:  Gary L. Francione and Anna E. Charlton, "Animal Rights: The Abolitionist Approach" pp. 441-443 Mark Bryant Budolfson, "Is It Wrong to Eat Meat from Factory Farms? If So, Why?" pp. 444- 450 Cora Diamond, "Eating Meat and Eating People" pp. 450- 457 Michael Pollan, "The (Agri)Cultural Contradictions of Obesity" pp. 457- 461 |
| In person class |
| Quiz – link on Brightspace |
| 16- Mar | Working Together | Textbook:  Elliott Sober, "Philosophical Problems for Environmentalism" pp. 469- 481 Katie McShane, "Anthropocentrism vs. Nonanthropocentrism: Why Should We Care?" pp 493- 501 |
| In person class |
| Quiz- link on Brightspace |
| 21- Mar | Taking Responsibility | Textbook:  Baylor L. Johnson, "Ethical Obligations in a Tragedy of the Commons" pp. 513- 521 Ty Raterman, "Bearing the Weight of the World: On the Extent of an Individual's Environmental Responsibility" pp. 521-531 |
| In-person class |
| Quiz – link on Brightspace |
| 23-Mar | Caring for the climate | Textbook:  Dale Jamieson, "Ethics, Public Policy, and Global Warming" pp. 542-550 Philip Kitcher, "The Climate Challenge" pp. 551-555 Darrel Moellendorf, "Justice in Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Policies" pp. 556- 559  John Broome, "The Most Important Thing about Climate Change" pp. 559- 561 |
| In-person class |
| Quiz – link on Brightspace |
| 28-Mar | Taking Action | Textbook: J. Baird Callicott, "Environmental Philosophy Is Environmental Activism" pp. 620-625 Kate Rawles, "The Missing Shade of Green" pp. 626-636 Andrew Light, "Taking Environmental Ethics Public" pp. 636-646 |
| In-person Class |
| No Quiz |
| 30-Mar | Listening to Nature | Readings Posted on Brightspace:  Robin Wall Kimmerer and Ana Tsing |
| In-Person Class |
| Quiz- Link on Brightspace |
| 04-Apr | This Changes Everything Film | Film Link posted on Brightspace |
| No class |
| No quiz |
| 06-Apr | This Changes Everything film + Class Discussion | No readings. |
| In-person discussion |
| Optional Quiz – link on Brightspace |
| 11- Apr | Final Exam Review | No readings |
| In-person review |
| No Quiz |

**Tips for doing well:**

1. Students are expected to do the readings before attending the in-person lectures or listening to the recorded lectures.
2. Come to class with ideas, questions, critiques, and concerns about the readings.
3. On average, you will spend about nine hours on this class every week – 6 hours in lectures and 3 hours in preparation and reading for class. In addition, you will spend about 4 hours each studying for the midterms and about 8 hours studying for the final exam.
4. All course related announcements and communication will be channeled through Brightspace.
5. Please be sure to submit assigned work on time—unexcused late work will be penalized.

**Class resources and policies**:

1. You are encouraged to approach the academic writing help center in case you need any assistance with learning how to write essays etc. CSAS holds regular workshops on writing, taking notes etc. that you may find helpful. You can learn more about these workshops and services [here](https://carleton.ca/csas/learning-support-workshops/)
2. If you feel stressed or overwhelmed you are encouraged to access the resources on campus to manage your time, stress levels, seek mentors etc. More information can be found [here](https://students.carleton.ca/wellness/?utm_source=Web&utm_medium=Pillar_Home-More&utm_campaign=Service_Pillars-Wellness)
3. Communication: Please allow a minimum of 24 hours to receive a response to your email/query. For tech related issues please contact [ITS](https://carleton.ca/its/contact/) as they will be able to guide you most effectively.
4. You are expected to be respectful of your colleagues, the teaching assistant, and the professor during all discussions and interactions.

If I can ensure your full access to this course in any way not already addressed in this syllabus/course outline please do not hesitate to contact me with your queries/requests.

**Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2022-23)**

**Assignments:**

Please follow your professor’s instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

**Evaluation:**

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.

**Deferrals for Term Work:**

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

**Deferrals for Final Exams:**

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/examinations/#deferred-final-exams)). Visit the [Registrar’s Office](https://carleton.ca/registrar/special-requests/) for further 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. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/academic-integrity-and-offenses-of-conduct/#academic-integrity-policy))

**Academic Accommodation:**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

* *Pregnancy or 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 [EDC](https://carleton.ca/edc/teachingresources/administrative-pedagogy/academic-accommodations/) website.
* *Academic accommodations for students with disabilities:* The [Paul Menton Centre](https://carleton.ca/pmc/) 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 your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
* *Survivors of Sexual Violence*: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton’s Sexual Violence Policy](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support/).
* *Accommodation for* [*Student Activities*](https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf)*:* Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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.

**Important Dates:**

Sept. 7 Classes start.

Sept. 20 Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.

Sept. 30 Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.

Oct. 10 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Oct. 24-28 Fall Break – no classes.

Nov. 25 Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.

Dec. 9 Last day of fall term classes. ***Classes follow a Monday schedule***. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. 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 a fall term course.

Dec. 10-22 Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.

Dec. 22 All take-home examinations are due.

Jan. 9 Classes begin.

Jan. 20 Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.

Jan. 31 Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.

Feb. 20 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Feb. 20-24 Winter Break – no classes.

Mar. 15 Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses.

Mar. 29 Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.

Apr. 7 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Apr. 12 Last day of two-term and winter term classes. ***Classes follow a Friday schedule.*** Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses.

Apr. 13-14 No classes or examinations take place.

Apr. 15-27 Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.

Apr. 27 All take-home examinations are due.

**Addresses:**

Department of Philosophy:

[www.carleton.ca/philosophy](http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy)

520-2110

Registrar’s Office:

[www.carleton.ca/registrar](http://www.carleton.ca/registrar)

520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:

[www.carleton.ca/academicadvising](http://www.carleton.ca/academicadvising)

520-7850

Writing Services:

<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

520-3822

MacOdrum Library

<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>

520-2735