

PHIL 2380 Introduction to Environmental Ethics

Fall 2024

Class schedule: Mon/Wed 11:35-12:55pm

Room: See on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Marie-Pier Lemay

Department of Philosophy Paterson Hall

Office: 3A45 Paterson Hall

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00-3:00pm (and by appointment in-person and over Zoom)

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Teaching Assistants information: TBA

I. Course description

Calendar Course Description

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

Course Description

This course examines contemporary debates in environmental ethics. While ethical issues related to environmental studies were once considered marginal in philosophy and environmental studies, the urgency of the current context has accelerated the growth of this field in recent years. What values should guide how we engage with the environment in our personal and professional lives? Are all progress attempts futile in the face of climate emergency? Is there, after all, a place for hope?

II. Learning Outcomes

At the end of this class, you will (1) identify and describe key concepts and theories in environmental ethics, (2) engage with debates and disagreements in the field, (3) learn to articulate your thoughts on these key debates, (4) critically apply the theories seen in the class in order to understand contemporary issues in environmental ethics.

III. Texts

Required Textbook: Williston, Byron. 2023. *Environmental Ethics for Canadians*. Third edition. Don Mills, Ontario, Canada: Oxford University Press.

You can buy an ebook access here: <https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/environmental-ethics-for-canadians-v9780195402414>

Paperback copies will also be available at the bookstore on campus.

The rest of the required readings will be electronically available on the course website.

Recommended book: Hourdequin, Marion. 2024. *Environmental Ethics: From Theory to Practice*. Second Edition. Bloomsbury Academic.

IV. Course calendar

Week and Topic	Date	Readings	Assignments due
1: Course introductions	Wed., Sep. 4	No reading	Not Applicable (NA)
2: Introduction	Mon., Sep. 9	Textbook, Introduction, pp. 1-22.	NA
2: Biocentrism	Wed., Sep. 11	Textbook, Chapter 2. Biocentrism, 48-70	Quiz 1 & Survey due (bonus: 1%)
3: Ecocentrism and Deep Ecology	Mon., Sep. 16	Textbook, Chapter 3. Ecocentrism and Deep Ecology, Land Ethic, 74-86	NA
3: Ecocentrism and Deep Ecology	Wed., Sep. 18	Textbook, Chapter 3. Ecocentrism and Deep Ecology, 87-99.	Quiz 2
4: Economics and Ecology	Mon., Sep. 23	Textbook, Chapter 4. Economics and Ecology, 102-113.	NA
4: Economics and Ecology	Wed., Sep. 25	Textbook, Chapter 4. Economics and Ecology, 113-127.	Quiz 3
5: Indigenous Perspectives	Mon., Sep. 30	Collaborative Indigenous Bundle “Our Original Instructions”: Engaging with Lands and Waters” (No in-person class)	NA
5: Indigenous Perspectives	Wed., Oct. 2	Textbook, Chapter 6. Indigenous Perspectives, Reconciliations, 157-161 & 168-176.	Quiz 4
6: Ecofeminism	Mon., Oct. 7	Textbook, Chapter 5. Ecofeminism, 128-138	NA
6: Ecofeminism & Midterm preparation.	Wed., Oct. 9	Textbook, Chapter 5. Ecofeminism, 138-156.	Quiz 5
7: Thanksgiving	Mon., Oct. 14	No Class	NA

Week and Topic	Date	Readings	Assignments due
7: Midterm Exam	Wed., Oct. 16	Midterm Exam	Midterm Exam (20%)
Fall Break	Mon., Oct. 21	No class	NA
Fall Break	Wed., Oct. 23	No Class	NA
8: Social Ecology and Environmental Activism	Mon., Oct. 28	Textbook, Chapter 9. Social Ecology and Environmental Activism, 248-264. In-class Documentary: Yintah	NA
8: Social Ecology and Environmental Activism	Wed., Oct. 30	In-class Documentary: Yintah	Quiz 6
9: Climate Change: Anthropocene	Mon., Nov. 4	Textbook, Chapter 10. Climate Change I: Science, Technology, and the Anthropocene, 272-282	NA
9: Climate Change: Anthropocene	Wed., Nov. 6	Textbook, Chapter 10. Climate Change I: Science, Technology, and the Anthropocene, 282-298.	Quiz 7
10: Climate Change: Why aren't we doing more?	Mon., Nov. 11	Textbook, Chapter 11. Climate Change II: Denial, Responsibility, and The Future, 299-306 & 311-326	NA
10: Climate Change: Why aren't we doing more?	Wed., Nov. 13	Pack, Justin. 2022. "Epistemology of Ignorance and the Environmental Crisis." in <i>Environmental Philosophy in Desperate Times</i> . Broadview Press. 137-143.	Quiz 8
11: Biodiversity	Mon., Nov. 18	Textbook, Chapter 13. The Biodiversity Crisis, 353-380.	NA
11: Biodiversity	Wed., Nov. 20	Textbook, Chapter 13. The Biodiversity Crisis, 353-380.	Due on Nov. 22: Yintah Analysis (10%) and Quiz 9
12: Sustainability	Mon., Nov. 25	Textbook, Chapter 14. Sustainability, 381-391.	NA
12: Sustainability <i>Prof. Kyla Bruff will visit our class.</i>	Wed., Nov. 27	TBA	Quiz 10
13: What's next?	Mon., Dec. 2	Malm, Andreas. 2021. <i>How to Blow up a Pipeline: Learning to Fight in a World on Fire</i> . First edition paperback. London ; New York: Verso, pp. 5-30	NA
13: What's next?	Wed., Dec. 6	Táiwò, Olúfẹ́mi O. 2022. "What's Next: Why Reparations Require Climate Justice." In <i>Reconsidering Reparations</i> , 1st ed., 149–90. Oxford University Press.	NA
14: Extra class	Fri., Dec. 8	Final exam revisions.	NA
Final Exam		Final Exam during the exam period	Final Exam

V. Evaluation:

Students will be assessed on four components: (1) one film analysis, (2) a midterm exam, (3) a final exam, and (4) weekly quizzes.

- **Midterm Exam (25% of final grade):** The Midterm Exam will happen in class and will consist of MCQs, short and long answers.
- **Final Exam (35% of final grade):** The Final Exam will happen in the exam weeks and will consist of MCQs, short and long answers. While the emphasis will be placed on the second half of the semester, you are expected to understand materials from the first half as well.
- **Film Analysis (10% of final grade):** During our class time, we will watch the recent documentary film *Yintah* on the Wet'suwet'en First Nation as they fight to protect their traditional lands. You will need to complete a reflection on this documentary, connecting it to course content. Instructions will be provided on October 28. This assignment is due on **November 22**.
- **Weekly quizzes (30% of final grade):** Every week, you will be required to complete an online quiz composed of multiple-choice and true/false questions on Brightspace. There will be 10 quizzes available. I will drop the two lowest scores, and only 8 quizzes will be included for your final grade (each quiz will be worth 3.75% of your final grade). quizzes are due on Fridays 11:59pm and you have 20 minutes to complete them. No extension will be granted for these quizzes; please do plan to complete them well before the due date in case anything happens.
- **Survey (1% of final grade, bonus):** If you complete a survey about the class by September 13th, you get one bonus point to your final grade. No extension will be granted.

VI. Course Policies (Including late work)

Unless other arrangements are made, in advance and in writing, with the course instructor, **essays sent after the due date** will be penalized by 5% for the first day they are late and then 2% for every subsequent day (including weekends), unless accompanied by documented evidence or a filled [self-declaration form](#).

All assignments should be submitted to me through the Brightspace dropbox. Please submit a file in Word or Rich Text Format (no .pdf files please).

If you **email** me, use your Carleton email address, and write the course code (PHIL 2380) in the subject line. If you haven't received a response within 48 hours (excluding weekends), feel free to send me a quick follow up email.

VII. Statement on Plagiarism

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (CHATGPT, ETC.)

We would discuss this more in class together, but I would encourage you to refrain yourself from using these tools for your work submitted for this class. I want to be able to hear your distinctive voice when I read your essay and these tools will not reproduce your voice.

Using AI tools to generate content for assignments, and presenting it as one's own original work, as well as copying or paraphrasing the content produced by AI tools without proper citations or the instructor's consent, are both considered to be in violation of academic integrity.

Note that I can ask you to submit drafts or answer questions on the writing process if I have suspicions that you did not write what you submitted for this course.

PLAGIARISM

The University Academic Integrity Policy defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, artworks, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2024-25)

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](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) 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](#))

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](#) website.
- *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 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](#).
- *Accommodation for [Student Activities](#):* 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. 4	Classes start.
Sept. 17	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. 14	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Oct. 21-25	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 22	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. 6	Last day of fall term classes. <i>Classes follow a Monday schedule</i> . 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. 9-21	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. 21	All take-home examinations are due.
Jan. 6	Classes begin.
Jan. 17	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. 17	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Feb. 17-21	Winter Break – no classes.

Mar. 15	Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses.
Mar. 25	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. 8	Last day of two-term 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 two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place.
Apr. 11-26	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 18	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 26	All take-home examinations are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:
www.carleton.ca/philosophy
 520-2110

Registrar's Office:
www.carleton.ca/registrar
 520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:
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