**PHIL 2380: Introduction to Environmental Ethics**

Early Summer 2019; Mondays and Wednesdays 6:05-8:55pm

**Prof: Katherine Wayne**

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**Office hours:** Wednesdays 3:30-5:30pm, PA 3A38

**Teaching assistant**: TBD

**NOTE:** This syllabus is as complete as possible. Details will be filled in as the class progresses, and some minor changes may be implemented as necessary.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course addresses a series of questions relevant to the evaluation of environmental issues from a philosophical perspective. For instance, what is nature? Why and how is the natural environment valuable, if it is at all? What role do—and should—humans occupy in the non-human realm? What are our obligations to nature and its constituent non-human individuals and collectives—including ecosystems, future generations, plants, and non-human animals? Which ethical theories and philosophical tools could best guide our responses to these questions? What might be some practical implications of our responses to the above, e.g. in public policy, environmental activism, and basic life choices? Our primary course text and other (mostly) contemporary work in environmental ethics will guide our examination and discussion of the above questions.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

* Understand philosophical theories and concepts pertinent to environmental ethics
* Critically analyze and compare different approaches to environmental issues
* Produce clear arguments in defense of particular ethical positions on environmental issues
* Address specific environmental issues in peer discussions using the methods, theories, and concepts introduced in the course

**CLASS TEXTS**

Primary textbook: Sandler, R.L., 2017. *Environmental Ethics: Theory in Practice*. Oxford University Press.

The textbook will be available for purchase at Haven books. Many required course readings are not in the textbook; outside articles and chapters are accessible through cuLearn.

**METHODS AND POLICIES**

While this is a lecture course, classes will regularly include general and small group discussion, as well as other peer-supported learning activities. I expect students to come to class having completed the assigned readings. To ensure minimal distractions and promote active engagement, the use of laptops and other technologies should be limited to note-taking and other classroom activities.

I encourage you to take advantage of office hours wherever feasible. While I will respond to e-mails as promptly and fully as possible, e-mail exchanges should generally be reserved for brief and/or logistical/administrative questions. You can typically expect to receive a response to e-mail inquiries from me within twenty-four hours during the work week, barring noted exceptions.

You should check cuLearn regularly for notices and updates e.g., re: scheduling, readings, and assignment instructions. You are also encouraged to use the student discussion forum on cuLearn for peer discussion, forming study groups, exchanging class notes, etc.

If you have any concerns about your ability to fulfill any of the course requirements, but are unsure of how to proceed, please speak with me as soon as possible and take care to inform yourself on relevant departmental and university policies and accommodations services. There is a complete list of these on the last pages of this syllabus, with which all students should become familiar.

Violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated. If you are unclear on the nature of academic integrity or Carleton’s academic integrity policy, please consult with me and/or the information and links to further resources on the last pages of the syllabus.

**EVALUATION**

Further information and instructions will be posted on cuLearn and discussed in class.

1. **In-class group assignments (30%)**

Four classes will include an in-class group discussion and writing assignment. With the exception of the paper workshop, which counts as one in-class group assignment, the assignments primarily involve critical analysis of the assigned readings. Groups submit one copy of a jointly completed assignment at the end of class; each present and participating member of the group will receive the same assignment grade. Your top three (of four) assignments will each contribute 10% to your final grade.

1. **Midterm paper (35%)**

Students will choose a topic in environmental ethics from a set list and write a paper of approximately 1500 words on that topic.

1. **Final exam (35%)**

The final exam (during exam period, date and time TBA) will cover all course material and will include short and long answer questions.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Note: Readings outside the required course text and any additional (recommended but not required) readings and other resources will be made available through cuLearn.

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| Week 1: May 6/8  *Defining and grounding environmental ethics* | Monday: Chapter 1, “What is environmental ethics?” and chapter 2, “Methods of environmental ethics” including box 2.1 |
| Wednesday: Chapter 3, “Normativity of nature” including box 3.2 and chapter 4, “Natural Value” including boxes 4.2 and 4.3 |
| Week 2: May 13/15  *Value and moral status* | Monday: Mill, “On Nature” and Rolston III, “Value in nature and the nature of value”  *\*First in-class assignment* |
| Wednesday: Baier, “The rights of past and future persons” and chapter 5, “Anthropocentrism, ratiocentrism, and indirect duties” including box 5.3 |
| Week 3: May 20/22  *From moral status to normative theory: consequentialism* | Monday: Chapter 7, “Nonanthropocentric individualism: the moral considerability of plants and animals” including boxes 7.5 – 7.8 and chapter 6, “Enlightened anthropocentrism: efficiency, sustainability, and future generations” including box 6.1 |
| Wednesday: Holland, “On some limitations of consequentialism in the sphere of environmental ethics” and chapter 8, “Consequentialist environmental ethics: animal welfare and utilitarianism”  *\*Second in-class assignment* |
| Week 4: May 27/29  *Con’t ethical theory: deontology and virtue ethics* | Monday: Taylor, “Respect for nature” and chapter 9, “Deontological environmental ethics: respect for nature, animal rights, and environmental rights” including boxes 9.2, 9.3, |
| Wednesday: Hill, “Ideals of human excellence and preserving natural environments” and chapter 10, “Character ethics: virtue, vice, and the environment” including box 10.1  *\*Third in-class assignment (paper workshop)* |
| Week 5: June 3/5  *Holism vs individualism* | Monday: Chapter 11, “Ecocentrism” including boxes 11.2, 11.4-11.6 and chapter 12, “Deep ecology” including boxes 12.1 and 12.3  ***\*Paper due*** |
| Wednesday: McShane, "Individualist biocentrism vs. holism revisited" and box 13.2 p. 304 and Sagoff, “Animal liberation and environmental ethics: Bad marriage, quick divorce” |
| Week 6: June 10/12  *Strategies in context: culture, politics, and social justice* | Monday: Whyte & Cuomo, “Ethics of caring in environmental ethics: Indigenous and feminist philosophies” and chapter 14, “Ecofeminism and environmental pragmatism” including box 14.2  *\*Fourth in-class assignment* |
| Wednesday: Gardiner, “Human rights in a hostile climate,” and chapter 15, “Environmental justice” including boxes 15.2-15.4, and box 9.5 from chapter 9 (p. 215-217) |
| Week 7: June 17  *Implications for choice-making: ethics of consumption* | Young, “Overconsumption and procreation: are they morally equivalent?” and McKinnon, “Climate change: against despair”  *\*Exam review* |

**Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 19)**

**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 on the first page: student name and number; course name and number; instructor’s name.
* No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates below.
* 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.

**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 Examinations:**

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 2.4, 2.5 and 2.5.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar](http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5)). 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. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 12.0, or [Academic Integrity < Carleton University](https://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/academicintegrity/)

**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 [Equity Services](https://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/) 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.

**Important Dates:**

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| May 6 Classes start.  May 13 Last day for registration and course changes for early summer courses.  May 17Last day for registration and course changes for full summer courses.  May 20 Statutory holiday, University closed.  May 24 Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from early and full summer courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.  June 11 Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for early summer courses before the official examination period.  June 18 Last day for early summer classes.  Last day for handing in term work.  Last day for academic withdrawal from early summer courses.  June 21-27 Final examinations.  June 27 Take-home examinations for early summer courses are due. | July 1 Statutory holiday, University closed.  July 2 Late summer courses begin and full summer courses resume.  July 9 Last day for registration and course changes for late summer courses.  July 22 Last day to withdraw from late summer courses with a full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.  Aug. 5 Civic holiday, University closed  Aug. 7 Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade for late or full summer courses before the official examination period.  Aug. 14 Last day of late and full summer term classes.  **Classes follow a Monday schedule.**  Last day for handing in term work.  Last day for academic withdrawal from late summer and full summer courses.  Aug. 17-23 Final examinations.  Aug. 23 Take-home examinations for late or full summer courses are due. |

**Useful Contacts:**

Department of Philosophy: 3A35 Paterson Hall – (613) 520-2110 [www.carleton.ca/philosophy](http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy)

Registrar’s Office: 300 Tory Building – (613) 520-3500 [www.carleton.ca/registrar](http://www.carleton.ca/registrar)