

PHIL 2380–A: Environmental Ethics
May 7th, 2018 – June 19th, 2018
Professor: Devin Zane Shaw, Ph.D.
Contact: Devin.Shaw@carleton.ca

Class

Tory Building (TB) 238
Tuesday/Thursday 6:05pm–8:55pm

Office Hours

Paterson Hall 3A56
Tuesday, 5:00pm–6:00pm

Course Objectives

The objective of this course is to introduce students to fundamental issues and debates in environmental ethics. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to: 1) compare and contrast competing philosophical frameworks and concepts concerning the environment, 2) justify ethical positions using clear argumentation, and 3) analyze the social implications of particular technologies using the methods, theories, and concepts introduced in the course.

Course Description

Environmental issues occupy a central place in policy, and society at large. Owing largely to the many environmental consequences that have accompanied industrialization (though some would say the expansion and intensification of capitalism), we have been forced to rethink our relationship with technology and nature. We will investigate, in this course, the following questions: What is nature, and what role do humans occupy in or outside of it? What role should we occupy? What, if anything, do we owe non-human members of the biotic or abiotic community? What do we owe future generations? How do we balance technological benefits against their environmental harms? What philosophical tools are useful in answering these questions?

Content Warning: Topics in this course require us to critique environmental racism, and in particular anti-Indigenous racism.

Course Evaluation

Class Participation (10%). Participation is evaluated according to whether the student actively contributes to class discussions, discusses material with either the professor or the teaching assistant during office hours, participates in online polls, and is present during days in which class attendance is taken. Class attendance will be taken on randomly chosen days; if the student is absent on each day that attendance is taken they will receive a zero for class participation.

Tests

- **First Test:** May 22nd (20%)
- **Second Test:** June 7th (30%)

- **Final Exam (40%):** The Final Exam is cumulative. It will be scheduled during the period of June 22–28. Exams are scheduled during the day and evening, on weekdays and on weekends. Please do not schedule vacations during this period, for travel does not constitute a reason to defer the Final exam.

Policies and Procedures:

1. Professionalism: I require that students adopt a professional attitude towards class conduct. This entails arriving on time and not leaving early, focusing on the lecture and not engaging in discussions unrelated to class material, turning off and ignoring cell phones unless an emergency is imminent, such as mortality (birth or death) or imprisonment. Most importantly, I also expect class discussions to be conducted at a respectful and professional level.
2. The tests will be held in the regular class location at the regular class time. You are expected to bring your student ID to all tests and arrive on time. Graded tests will be returned to you two weeks after the date of the test.
3. Email to the professor should indicate the name, student number, and course. The subject line should read PHIL 2380A. Please note that I reserve the right to not answer an email if it requests information that is provided on the syllabus or other distributed documents.
4. If you miss an exam, you must contact the professor within 48 hours. This is your responsibility. If you are excused from an exam (for medical reasons, etc. as determined by the professor) you must make up the exam at the following times: For Test 1, the make up date is May 29th, 4:30pm–5:50pm; Test 2: June 12th, 4:30pm–5:50pm. The location is Paterson Hall 3A56. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.

Required Texts

The required textbook is available at All Books, 327 Rideau Street:

- Robbins, P., Hintz, J., Moore, S.A. *Environment and Society: A Critical Introduction*. 2nd edition. (Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2014). ISBN: 978-1-118-45156-4.

These required texts are available through the ARES reserve system:

- Stålo Holgersen and Andreas Malm, “Green fix’ as Crisis Management: Or, In Which World Is Malmö the World’s Greenest City?” *Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography*, 97:4 (2015): 275–290.
- Aldo Leopold, “The Land Ethic” in *A Sand County Almanac* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987), 201–226.
- Andreas Malm, “China as Chimney of the World: The Fossil Capital Hypothesis,” *Organization and Environment* 25/2 (2012): 146–177.
- Kim Anderson, Barbara Clow, and Margaret Haworth-Brockman, “Carriers of Water: Aboriginal Women’s Experiences, Relationships, and Reflections,” *Journal of Cleaner Production* 60 (2013): 11–17.
- James D.K. Morris and Jacinta Ruru, “Giving Voice to Rivers: Legal Personality as a Vehicle for Recognising Indigenous Peoples’ Relationships to Water,” *Australian Indigenous Law Review* 14/2 (2010): 49–62.

Reading Schedule

(All Readings are from *Environment and Society* unless otherwise noted)

Reading Schedule (Subject to Change)

Week 1:	May 8 May 10	Introduction Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 2: Population and Scarcity
Week 2:	May 15 May 17	Chapter 3: Markets and Commodities Chapter 4: Institutions and “The Commons” Review
Week 3:	May 22 May 24	Test 1 (20%) Chapter 5: Environmental Ethics
Week 4:	May 29 May 31	Leopold, “The Land Ethic” Chapter 7: Political Economy Chapter 7: Political Economy Chapter 9: Carbon Dioxide
Week 5:	June 5 June 7	Malm, “China as Chimney of the World” Review Test 2 (30%)
Week 6:	June 12 June 14	Chapter 15: Bottled Water Anderson et al., “Carriers of Water” Morris and Ruru, “Giving Voice to Rivers”
Week 7:	June 19	Chapter 17: E-Waste Holgersen and Malm, “‘Green fix’ as Crisis Management”

Final Exam (40%): To Be Announced.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies
Summer 2018

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.

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](#)). 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. (Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations, section 12.0, or [Academic Integrity < Carleton University](#))

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](#) 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.

Important Deadlines:

Please review important dates and deadlines that pertain to summer courses here: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/registration/dates-and-deadlines/>

Useful Contacts:

Department of Philosophy: 3A35 Paterson Hall
613-520-2110
www.carleton.ca/philosophy

Academic Advising Centre: 302 Tory
613-520-7850
www.carleton.ca/academicadvising

Writing Services: 4th Floor, Library
613-520-3822
<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>