

PHIL 2380: Introduction to Environmental Ethics

Winter 2020: Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:35am-12:55pm

Prof: Katherine Wayne

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-2:30pm, 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 ethics
- Produce clear arguments in defense of particular ethical positions on environmental issues
- Collaboratively address environmental issues in discussion and debate using the methods, theories, and concepts introduced in the course

CLASS TEXTS

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

The textbook can be rented online (e.g. through Redshelf) or purchased through your preferred seller. Many required course readings are not in the textbook; outside articles and chapters are accessible through cuLearn. I may post additional (recommended but not required) readings and other resources on 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

1) In-class group assignments (5×5%=25%)

Six classes will be primarily devoted to an in-class group discussion and writing assignment, which will typically involve collaborative 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. Each of your top five (of six) assignments will contribute 5% to the final grade.

2) Paper (35%)

Students will choose a topic in environmental ethics from a set list and write a paper of 1500-1800 words on that topic. Papers are due Tuesday March 3rd and will be submitted through cuLearn.

2a) Paper workshop (5%)

Our class on Tuesday February 25th will primarily be devoted to a workshop that is designed to support the paper writing process. Students will bring a proposal, outline, draft, or other comparable rough work on the paper to class and will submit this rough work along with their completed in-class exercises at the end of class. Workshop participation (including submission) will contribute 5% to the final grade.

3) Final exam (35%)

The final exam (during exam period, date and time TBD) includes short and long answer questions. It will cover all course material but long answer (essay) questions will emphasize readings/topics from the last third of the course (after the paper deadline).

Notes

In addition to the in-class group assignments and more informal writing and discussion activities, some classes may include tutorials (in which the class is split between the teaching assistant and me).

Further information and instructions for all major class activities will be posted on cuLearn and discussed in class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Below you will find the schedule of required readings and assignments. See the reading list for full reference information. Some minor modifications to the schedule may be needed; if so, these changes will appear in an updated document and announced on cuLearn.

<i>Week 1: Jan 7/9</i>	Tuesday: introduction to the course, chapter 1, "What is environmental ethics?"
<i>Defining and grounding environmental ethics</i>	Thursday: chapter 2, "Methods of environmental ethics" including box 2.1

Weeks 2-4: Value and moral status

<i>Week 2: Jan 14/16</i>	Tuesday: chapter 3, "Normativity of nature" including box 3.2 and Mill, "On Nature" (selection)
	Thursday: chapter 4, "Natural Value" including boxes 4.2 and 4.3
<i>Week 3: Jan 21/23</i>	Tuesday: Rolston III, "Value in nature and the nature of value" <i>*Group assignment 1</i>
	Thursday: chapter 5, "Anthropocentrism, ratiocentrism, and indirect duties" including box 5.3
<i>Week 4: Jan 28/30</i>	Tuesday: Baier, "The rights of past and future persons" and section 6.3 in chapter 6 (p. 127-131)
	Thursday: chapter 7, "Nonanthropocentric individualism: the moral considerability of plants and animals" including boxes 7.5 – 7.8 <i>*Group assignment 2</i>

Weeks 5-8: From moral status to normative theory

<i>Week 5: Feb 4/6</i>	Tuesday: chapter 8, "Consequentialist environmental ethics: animal welfare and utilitarianism"
	Thursday: Holland, "On some limitations of consequentialism in the sphere of environmental ethics" (p.107-121) <i>*Group assignment 3</i>
<i>Week 6: Feb 11/13</i>	Tuesday: Taylor, "The ethics of respect for nature" (selection) and chapter 9, "Deontological environmental ethics: respect for nature, animal rights, and environmental rights"
	Thursday: chapter 10, "Character ethics: virtue, vice, and the environment" including box 10.1 <i>*Paper topics and instructions available/discussed in class</i>
<i>Week 7: Feb 18/20</i>	Reading break (no classes or assigned readings)
<i>Week 8: Feb 25/27</i>	Tuesday: no assigned readings <i>*Paper workshop</i>
	Thursday: Aesthetics and Environmental Ethics (readings tbd)

Weeks 9-10: Holism vs individualism

Week 9: March 3/5 Tuesday: chapter 11, "Ecocentrism" including boxes 11.2, 11.4-11.6

**Paper due*

Thursday: chapter 12, "Deep ecology" including boxes 12.1 and 12.3

Week 10: March 10/12 Tuesday: McShane, "Individualist biocentrism vs. holism revisited" and box 13.2 p. 304

**Group assignment 4*

Thursday: Sagoff, "Animal liberation and environmental ethics: Bad marriage, quick divorce"

Weeks 11-13: Ethics in context: gender, culture, justice, and responsibility

Week 11: March 17/19 Tuesday: chapter 14, "Ecofeminism and environmental pragmatism" including box 14.2

Thursday: Whyte & Cuomo, "Ethics of caring in environmental ethics: Indigenous and feminist philosophies"

**Group assignment 5*

Week 12: March 24/26 Tuesday: chapter 15, "Environmental justice" including boxes 15.2-15.4, and box 9.5 from chapter 9 (p. 215-217)

Thursday: Gardiner, "Human rights in a hostile climate"

**Group assignment 6*

*Week 13: March 31/
April 2* Tuesday: Young, "Overconsumption and procreation: are they morally equivalent?" and Broome, "The most important thing about climate change" (selection)

Thursday: McKinnon, "Climate change: against despair"

Week 14: April 7 Rawles, "The missing shade of green"

*Concluding reflections
and review*

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 Final Exams:

If you miss a final examination (formally scheduled or take-home) because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral. You must apply within 3 working days after the scheduled date of your formally scheduled exam or within 3 working days after the due date of a take-home exam. Visit the Registrar's Office for more information:

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv2/#2.5>

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.

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

carleton.ca/pmc

Pregnancy 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: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

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:

<http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

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 is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

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. 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. 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. 24	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	Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter 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 two-term and for winter term courses.
Apr. 10	Statutory holiday. University closed.
Apr. 13-25	Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 25	All take-home examinations are due on this day.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Academic Advising Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/academicadvising 520-7850
Writing Services:	4 th Floor, Library http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/ 520-3822
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735