

# PHIL 2380\* INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

**Academic Term:** Winter 2012  
**Schedule:** Monday + Wednesday 6 - 7:30pm  
**Classroom:** Azraeli 301  
**WebCT:** <http://lms.carleton.ca>

**Instructor:** Michael Kocsis  
**Office:** Room 329B, Floor 3 Paterson Hall  
**Email:** [Michael\\_Kocsis@carleton.ca](mailto:Michael_Kocsis@carleton.ca)  
**Office Hours:** Wednesday 3-4 (also by appointment)

## Course Description

This course is an introduction to the emerging new field of environmental ethics. We will discuss current environmental issues such as animal rights, vegetarianism, sustainability, resource stewardship, and eco-radicalism. We will reflect on major questions that are asked in a distinctive way in environmental ethics; How should we view our relationship with nature? Should animals have rights? Should ecosystems? Is responsible stewardship compatible with today's technology? Should future generations be protected from present-day societies? Questions like these can sometimes leave us feeling frustrated or conflicted. Our goal in this course is to see if environmental ethics can offer us new ways to make progress.

## Evaluation

The course includes two in-class tests and a final examination, held during the exam period. Details will be given in class, and you should feel free to inquire with your instructor. Review questions will be posted prior to tests and exams on WebCT.

- 30% - In-Class Test #1            Monday January 25<sup>th</sup> @ 6:05pm
  - 30% - In-Class Test #2            Monday March 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:05pm
  - 40% - Final Exam                Scheduled by Carleton (Exam period: August 11<sup>th</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup>)
- ✓ Check WebCT one week prior to tests and exams for *Review Questions*

## Textbooks and Resources

There is one required text. It is a "course reader," available for purchase at Haven Books (Seneca St @ Sunnyside). You will benefit from reading the assigned material before lectures. Log onto our WebCT webpage (<http://lms.carleton.ca>) for our reading schedule, course outline, course announcements and other educational resources.

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## PHIL 2380 (Winter Term) – READING SCHEDULE

1. Wed. Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> **Introduction**
    - Introduction to Environmental Ethics
  2. Mon. Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> **The Field of Environmental Ethics**
    - George Orwell, “Shooting an Elephant”
    - Michael Allen Fox, “Arguments for Vegetarianism”
  3. Wed. January 11<sup>th</sup> **Ancient Perspectives**
    - from *The Epic of Gilgamesh*
    - Aristotle, from *Physics*, *On the Soul* and *Politics*
  4. Mon. January 16<sup>th</sup> **Ownership of Nature**
    - John Locke, “The Creation of Property”
    - Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons”
    - George Monbiot, “The Tragedy of Enclosure”
    - **VIDEO:** “*The Promise of the Land*”(1987)
  5. Wed. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> **Religion and Natural Hierarchy**
    - from *The Book of Genesis*
    - St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Contra Gentiles* and *Summa Theologica*
  6. Mon. Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> **Religion and Natural Hierarchy**
    - St. Francis of Assisi, *Life of St. Francis*
    - White, “Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis”
  7. Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup>
    - ✓ **IN-CLASS TEST #1** (6:05pm)
  8. Monday January 30<sup>th</sup>
    - **VIDEO:** “*The Refugees of the Blue Planet*”(2006)
  9. Wed. Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> **Singer and Utilitarianism**
    - Peter Singer, “All Animals are Equal”
  10. Mon. Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> **Regan and Animal Rights**
    - Regan, “The Case for Animal Rights”
    - Kant, “Duties to Animals”
  11. Wed. Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> **Taylor and Respect for Nature**
    - Paul Taylor, “The Ethics of Respect for Nature”
    - **VIDEO:** “*Learning from Ladakh*”(1993)
  12. Mon. Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> **The Land Ethic**
    - Aldo Leopold, from *The Land Ethic*
    - Rachel Carson, from *Silent Spring*
    - Henry David Thoreau, from *Walking*
  13. Wed. Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> **Deep Ecology**
    - Devall & Sessions, *Deep Ecology*
- WINTER BREAK (February 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>)**
14. Mon. Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> **Social Ecology**
    - Murray Bookchin, *What is Social Ecology?*
    - Murray Bookchin, *Social Ecology versus Deep Ecology*
  15. Wed. Feb. 29<sup>th</sup> **Ecofeminism**
    - Warren, *The Power and Promise of Ecological Feminism*
    - Merchant, *Ecofeminism and Feminist Theory*
  16. Monday March 5<sup>th</sup>
    - Mary Midgeley, *Duties toward Islands*
    - Silva, *The Buddhist Attitude toward Nature*
  17. Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup>
    - ✓ **IN-CLASS TEST #2** (6:05)
  18. Monday March 12<sup>th</sup>
    - **VIDEO:** “*The Canary Effect*” (2006)
  19. Wed. March 14<sup>th</sup> **Non-European Approaches**
    - Callicott & Nelson *An Ojibwa Worldview and Environmental Ethic*
  20. Monday March 19<sup>th</sup> **Population**
    - Thomas Malthus, from *An Essay on Population*
    - William Godwin, from *On Population*
  21. Wed. Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> **Future Generations**
    - Joel Fienberg, “Future Generations”
  22. Mon. Mar. 26<sup>th</sup> **Eco-Radicalism**
    - Dave Foreman, “Strategic Monkeywrenching”
    - Paul Watson, “Tora! Tora! Tora!”
  23. Wed. Mar. 28<sup>th</sup> **Convergence of Values**
    - James Sterba, “Reconciling Anthropocentric and Nonanthropocentric Environmental Ethics”
  24. Monday April 2<sup>nd</sup> **Which Way(s) Forward?**
    - Andrew Light, “Taking Environmentalism Public”
  25. Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup> **Final Lecture**
    - Course Overview and Conclusions
    - Final exam review + preparations

*Carleton Exam Period* → April 11<sup>th</sup>– 24<sup>th</sup>

## Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies

### 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 in the lower right corner of the cover sheet:
  - student name
  - student number
  - course number and section
  - instructor's name
- The Philosophy Department does not accept assignments by FAX. You may send them by courier, if necessary.
- No assignments will be accepted after the last day for handing in term work – see dates in next column.
- 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 you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a final assignment by the due date because of circumstances beyond your control, you may apply for a deferral of examination/assignment. For deferred examinations, you must apply within 5 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 5 working days of the last scheduled day of classes. Visit the Registrar's Office for more 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 14.3, or <http://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadre/suniv14.html#14.3>)

### Academic Accommodation:

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

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me 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/accommodation/>

**Religious obligation:** write to me 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/accommodation/>

**Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations** in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD),

psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

### Important Dates:

Sept. 8	Classes start (after Orientation events).
Sept. 21	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall term and two-term courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 7	University Day – no classes.
Oct. 10	Thanksgiving Day – university closed.
Nov. 21	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 5	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Dec. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses.
Jan. 4	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 17	Last day for registration and course changes in Winter term classes.
Jan. 31	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter courses or winter portion of two-term courses.
Feb. 20	Family Day – university closed
Feb. 20-24	Winter Break, classes suspended.
Mar. 22	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000 level before the Final Examination period.
Apr. 5	Last day of Fall/Winter and Winter term classes. Last day for handing in term assignments, subject to any earlier course deadline.
Apr. 5	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 6	Good Friday – university closed.
Apr. 11-24	Final Examinations.

### Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A46 Paterson Hall <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/philosophy">www.carleton.ca/philosophy</a> 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/registrar">www.carleton.ca/registrar</a> 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/sasc">www.carleton.ca/sasc</a> 520-7850
Paul Menton Centre:	500 University Centre <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/pmc">www.carleton.ca/pmc</a> 520-6608
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Library <a href="http://www.carleton.ca/wts">www.carleton.ca/wts</a> 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	<a href="http://www.library.carleton.ca/">http://www.library.carleton.ca/</a> 520-2735