
PHIL 3380A – ENVIRONMENTS, TECHNOLOGY & VALUES

WINTER 2016

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Prof: Jason Millar

Email: jason.millar@carleton.ca

Office: Paterson 3A54

Office Hours: Thursdays 11:00-12:00

Contacting Me (your prof): I encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns. The best way to get in touch with me is email. **Be sure to include the following text in the subject line of ALL emails (or email me via cuLearn) or I cannot guarantee your email will get through my filters: "PHIL 3380".**

COURSE INFORMATION

Time: Mondays, 11:30am – 2:30pm

Location: Southam 520

This course precludes additional credit for PHIL 2804.

Prerequisite(s): PHIL 1804 or PHIL 2380 and third-year standing, or permission of the Department.

Course Website: You are responsible for keeping current with the information on cuLearn. You must check it and your Carleton email regularly (more than once a week) for important messages, scheduling information, readings, assignment or exam information, and other important information.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Owing largely to the many environmental consequences that have accompanied industrialization, we humans have been forced to rethink the complex relationship between environments, technology and values. Students investigate advanced ethical theories about environments, technologies and values including: the “naturalness” of technology, existential risk, ecofeminism, animal rights and citizenship, and environmental activism. Some of the questions that will be addressed in this course include: What is nature, and what role do/should humans occupy in it? What, if anything, do we owe non-human organisms? What do we owe future generations? How do we balance technological benefits against their environmental harms? Will technology destroy us, or will it enhance and extend our lives? What philosophical tools are useful in answering these questions? How should answers to these questions factor in public policy?

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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

1. Compare and contrast various philosophical theories and concepts of environmental ethics.
2. Apply theories and concepts of environmental ethics when making arguments.
3. Justify particular ethical positions using clear, well-structured argumentation.
4. Identify possible objections to the various philosophical theories and arguments discussed in class.
5. Evaluate the environmental implications of particular technologies using the theories and concepts introduced in the course.
6. Demonstrate how philosophical theories and concepts of environmental ethics apply to current issues.

COURSE TEXT

Required Readings: All required readings are available on the cuLearn course page in electronic format.

Other Readings: Other readings, videos, and news sources may be assigned throughout the course. Please keep current on cuLearn for any additions to the course readings.

MY TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

As much as possible, I will be planning classes using a “flipped class” approach in which students support each other in learning activities. In addition, some required material might be delivered via online mini-lectures. Information about online lectures (if applicable) will be available on cuLearn. This means that I will minimize traditional lecturing in favour of a supported, individual and peer learning environment.

It is my expectation that you arrive to class having read the required readings, and completed any assigned online activities. Material that is introduced in class will be fair game on all assignments. You should arrange to get notes from a friend/colleague if you are unable to attend class in person. My hope is that you come away from this course with an appreciation for the topics, and a genuine interest in pursuing further studies in philosophy.

STUDENT EVALUATION

- 1) **45% One-Page Assignment (3 x 15% each)**
- 2) **20% Manifesto Group Assignment.**
- 3) **35% Take-home exam.**

Detailed instructions for all assignments will be posted on cuLearn and will be discussed in class.

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.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan 11): Introduction and Syllabus

Introduction to PHIL 3380 (Syllabus) and an overview of the course.

Introduction to Ethics – Consequentialism: (link to required reading on cuLearn)

Week 2 (Jan 18): Introduction to Ethics (continued)

Consequentialism (cont...); Deontology; Virtue Ethics (links to required readings on cuLearn)

Week 3 (Jan 25): Ecocentrism and Biocentrism

Leopold, A. (1949). "The Land Ethic." In A. Leopold *A Sand County Almanac*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Stone, C. (2010). "Should Trees Have Standing? Toward Legal Rights for Natural Objects." In *Should Trees Have Standing? Law, Morality, and the Environment*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press): 3-54.

Taylor, P. (1981). "The Ethics of Respect for Nature." *Environmental Ethics* 3(3):197-218.
Available at: <http://www.umweltethik.at/download.php?id=391>

One-page Assignment #1 Distributed.

Week 4 (Feb 1): Animal Rights and Welfare I

Singer, P. (1989). "All Animals are Equal." In Tom Regan & Peter Singer (Eds.) *Animal Rights and Human Obligations*. (New Jersey: Prentice-Hall):148-162.

Sagoff, M. (1984). Mark Sagoff. "Animal Liberation and Environmental Ethics: Bad Marriage. Quick Divorce." *Osgoode Hall Law Journal* 22:297-307.

One-Page Assignment #1 due.

Week 5 (Feb 8): Animal Rights and Welfare II

Donaldson, S., Kymlicka, W. (2014). "Animals and the Frontiers of Citizenship." Available online: https://www.academia.edu/5512502/Will_Kymlicka_and_Sue_Donaldson_Animals_and_the_Frontiers_of_Citizenship_2014

Guest Lecture: Wayne, K. (forthcoming). "Just Flourishing in the Interspecies Community."

Week 6 (Feb 15): Reading Week - No Classes

Week 7 (Feb 22): Animal Rights and Welfare III

Donaldson, S., Kymlicka, W. (2015). *Farmed Animal Sanctuaries: The Heart of the Movement? A Socio-Political Perspective.*

One-page Assignment #2 distributed.

Week 8 (Feb 29): Ecofeminism

Warren, K. (1990). "The Power and Promise of Ecological Feminism." *Environmental Ethics* 12(2):125-146.

Mies, M. (1993). "The Myth of Catching-up Development." In M. Mies and V. Shiva *Ecofeminism*. (Zed Books).

One-page Assignment #2 due.

Week 9 (Mar 7): Technology, Humans, and Nature I

Kurzweil, R. (1999). "Chapter 1: The Law of Time and Chaos." In *The Age of Spiritual Machines*. (New York: Viking). Available at: <http://www.kurzweilai.net/chapter-one-the-law-of-time-and-chaos>

Bostrom, N. (2013). "Existential Risk Prevention as Global Priority." *Global Policy* 4(1):15-31.

Week 10 (Mar 14): Technology, Humans, and Nature II

Haraway, D. (1991). "A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, And Socialist-Feminism In The Late Twentieth Century," In *Simians, Cyborgs And Women: The Reinvention Of Nature*. (New York; Routledge): 149- 181.

Joy, B. (2000). "Why the Future Doesn't Need Us." *WIRED*. Available at: <http://www.wired.com/2000/04/joy-2/>

One-Page Assignment #3 distributed.

Week 11 (March 21): Environmental Activism

Forman, D. (1985). "Strategic Monkeywrenching." In *Ecodefense: A Field Guide to Monkeywrenching*.

Martin, M. (1990). "Ecosabotage and Civil Disobedience." *Environmental Ethics* 12(4):291-310.

Welchman, J. (2010). "Is Ecosabotage Civil Disobedience?" *Philosophy & Geography* 4(1):97-107.

Manifesto Group Assignment instructions distributed.

One-Page Assignment #3 due.

Week 12 (March 28): Manifesto workshop

Students will have an opportunity to work on their group assignments during class in a *tutorial* like environment.

Week 13 (Apr 4): Sustainability

CH7 from Sarkar, S. (2012). *Environmental Philosophy: From Theory to Practice*. (Malden, MA:Wiley-Blackwell)

Manifesto Group Assignment Due.

Take-home Exam Distributed (Due on the final day of the exam period)

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (2015-16)

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:
 - student name
 - student number
 - course number and section
 - instructor's name
- 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://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>)

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 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/>

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 scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure

accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Important Dates:

Sept. 2	Classes start.
Sept. 4	Classes follow a Monday schedule.
Sept. 7	Labour Day - University closed.
Sept. 18	Last day for registration and course changes in Fall and Fall/Winter courses.
Sept. 30	Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from Fall term or two-term courses.
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
Oct. 26-30	Fall Break – no classes.
Nov. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Dec. 7	Last day of classes, Fall term. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for Fall term courses.
Dec. 7	Last day to withdraw from Fall term courses (academic purposes only).
Dec. 8	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Dec. 9-21	Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Dec. 21	Take-home exams are due.
Jan. 6	Winter term classes begin.
Jan. 19	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. 15-19	Winter Break, no classes.
Mar. 24	Last day for tests or examinations in courses below 4000-level before the Final Examination period.
Mar. 25	Good Friday – University closed.
Apr. 8	Last day of Fall/Winter 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 term work for Fall/Winter and Winter term courses.
Apr. 8	Last day to withdraw from Fall/Winter and Winter term courses (academic purposes only).
Apr. 9-10	No classes or examinations take place. Review classes may be held, but no new material may be introduced.
Apr. 11-23	Final Examinations. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
Apr. 23	Take-home exams are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:	3A35 Paterson Hall www.carleton.ca/philosophy 520-2110
Registrar's Office:	300 Tory www.carleton.ca/registrar 520-3500
Student Academic Success Centre:	302 Tory www.carleton.ca/sasc 520-7850
Writing Tutorial Service:	4 th Floor, Library http://www1.carleton.ca/sasc/writing-tutorial-service/ 520-6632
MacOdrum Library	http://www.library.carleton.ca/ 520-2735