

PHIL 2380-A: Introduction to Environmental Ethics
July 4th, 2017 – August 16th, 2017
Professor: Devin Zane Shaw, Ph.D.
Contact: Devin.Shaw@carleton.ca

Class

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

Office Hours

Paterson Hall 3A56
Tuesday, 4:00pm–5:30pm

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? How should answers to these questions factor in public policy?

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, 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: July 18th (20%)**
- **Second Test: August 3rd (30%)**

Final Exam (40%): The final exam will be scheduled during the period of August 19–25. 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. The Final Exam is cumulative.

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. 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.
3. 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 July 25th, 4:00pm–5:30pm; Test 2: August 8th, 4:00pm–5:30pm. 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:

- Robert Jago, "Canada's Parks are Colonial Crime Scenes," *The Walrus*, June 30th, 2017 [<https://thewalrus.ca/canadas-national-parks-are-colonial-crime-scenes/>]
- Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic" in *A Sand County Almanac* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987), 201–226.
- Peter Singer, "All Animals Are Equal," in *Animal Rights and Human Obligations*. Ed. Tom Regan and Peter Singer (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1976), 148–162.

Reading Schedule

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

Week 1: July 4 July 6	Introduction Chapter 1: Introduction Chapter 2: Population and Scarcity
Week 2: July 11, 13	Chapter 3: Markets and Commodities Chapter 4: Institutions and "The Commons"
Week 3: July 18 July 20	Test 1 Chapter 5: Environmental Ethics Jago, "Canada's National Parks are Colonial Crime Scenes"
Week 4: July 25, 27	Leopold, "The Land Ethic" Singer, "All Animals Are Equal" Chapter 7: Political Economy
Week 5: August 1 August 3	Chapter 6: Risks and Hazards Test 2
Week 6: August 8, 10	Chapter 9: Carbon Dioxide Chapter 14: Lawns
Week 7: August 15	Chapter 17: E-Waste <i>Final Review</i>

Final Exam (40%): To Be Announced

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Summer 17)

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 3 working days after the scheduled date of your exam. To apply for deferral of a final assignment, you must apply within 3 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 12.0, or <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/academicintegrity/>)

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:

May 1	Classes start.
May 8	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>early</u> summer courses.
May 12	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>full</u> summer courses.
May 19	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from <u>early</u> and <u>full</u> summer courses.
May 22	Statutory holiday, University closed.
June 6	Last day for tests or examinations in <u>early</u> and <u>full</u> summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
June 13	Last day for <u>early</u> summer 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 courses that end on this day. Last day for academic withdrawal from <u>early</u> summer courses.
June 19-25	Final examinations.
July 3	Statutory holiday, University closed.
July 4	<u>Late</u> summer courses begin and <u>full</u> summer courses resume.
July 11	Last day for registration and course changes for <u>late</u> summer courses.
July 24	Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from <u>late</u> summer courses.
Aug. 2	Last day for tests or examinations in <u>full</u> summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
Aug. 7	Civic holiday, University closed
Aug. 9	Last day for tests or examinations in <u>late</u> summer courses below the 4000-level before the final examination period.
Aug. 16	Last day of <u>late</u> and <u>full</u> summer 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 courses that end on this day. Last day for academic withdrawal from <u>late</u> summer and <u>full</u> summer courses.
Aug. 19-25	Final examinations.

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