

The University of Manitoba
Department of Philosophy

Philosophy 2750: Ethics and Environment

Fall Term 2011
T/TR 1:00-2:15
RM 237, University College

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Office: 465 University College
Office Hours: M/W 1:00-2:00

Environmental problems can be incredibly complicated, in moral as well as in economic, political, and biological terms. It is easy to oversimplify the problems, and the solutions. When it comes to environmental issues, what are we responsible and accountable for as individuals? How are our responsibilities affected by the fact that we act in, create, and support institutions? What do we owe to ourselves, to each other, and perhaps to the biosphere itself?

The basic concepts we will discuss in this course include (but are not limited to) the following:

What Really Matters: Animal rights, the Land Ethic; value pluralism; environmental holism; deep ecology; ecofeminism; rethinking the good life
What Really Works: Wildlife conversation; poverty as an environmental problem; the ecology of property rights; cost-benefit analysis and environmental policy; environmental activism.

REQUIRED TEXTS

David Schmidtz and Elizabeth Willott, *Environmental Ethics: What Really Matters, What Really Works* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001) ISBN: 9780195139099

REQUIREMENTS

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|------------------------|------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Written assignments | 20% (each) | 1 st due Oct. 4 | 2 nd due Nov. 17 |
| 2. In class test | 25% | Oct. 20 | |
| 3. Final exam | 35% | T.B.A. | |

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

There will be two writing assignments. Students will be asked to write two critical response essays (4 pages in length) 20% each. In these assignments students will be asked to exposit and critically assess the merits of arguments put forward by authors covered in the course. No outside research is expected or encouraged. The task is to engage philosophically with a single idea or argument we will have discussed.

The writing assignments will be posted at least two weeks in advance of the due date. Assignments should be typed, double-spaced, single-sided, 12-point font (preferably Times), in black ink, with 1 inch margins. The only *exception* is the information you wish to include at the top of the first page (e.g. the title of the paper, the date, the name of the class, my name) which should be *single-spaced*. Please attach your note accepting the honour code to all writing assignments (which will be found on the writing assignment question sheet).

The deadline for all written assignments is the beginning of class (with a ten minute grace period). Work submitted after the grace period has lapsed is subject to a late penalty of 5% per day.

GRADING SCALE

In this course, the following equivalence between letter grades and percentages is used:

A+	90-100
A	80-89
B+	75-79
B	70-74
C+	65-69
C	60-64
D	50-59
F	00-49

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the University of Manitoba Student Discipline Bylaw, which gives information regarding the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty. The policy can be found in section 8 of the General Academic Regulations and Requirements in your Undergraduate Calendar or at

<http://crscalprod1.cc.umanitoba.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog&catalogid=60&chapterid=133&topicgroupid=3862>

Plagiarism or cheating will result in an F for the assignment, and may carry additional penalties as per university policy.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Week One: What is Environmental Ethics?

Sept 8: Introduction to the Course

Week Two: The Moral Foundations of Environmentalism

Sept 13: Aldo Leopold, *The Land Ethic* (27-33)
Holmes Rolston III, *Values in and Duties to the Natural World* (33-38)

Sept 15: Bill Devall and George Sessions, *Deep Ecology* (120-126)
Murray Bookchin, *Social Ecology, Versus Deep Ecology* (126-137)

Week Three: Animal Liberation and Species Equality

Sept 20: Peter Singer, *All Animals are Equal* (17-27)
Bob Sagoff, *Animal Liberation and Environmental Ethics: Bad Marriage, Quick Divorce* (38-44)

Sept 22: Joel Feinberg, *The Rights of Animals* (50-58)
Tom Regan, *How to Worry about Endangered Species* (105-108)

Week Four: Is Species Equality Defensible?

Sept 27: Christopher D. Stone, *Should Tress have Standing? Toward Legal Rights for Natural Objects.* (46-50)
Paul W. Taylor, *The Ethics of Respect for Nature* (83-96)
David Schmidtz. *Are all Species Equal?* (96-103)

Sept 29: Elliot Sober: *Philosophical Problems for Environmentalism* (145-157)

Week Five: Can We (and Should We) Preserve Nature?

Oct 4: Martin Krieger, *What's Wrong with Plastic Trees?* (159-172)

First Critical Essay Due Today

Oct 6: Thomas E. Hill Jr., *Ideals of Human Excellence and Preserving Natural Environments* (189-199)

Week Six: Nature and the Good Life

Oct 11: Lester Milbrath, *Redefining the Good Life in a Sustainable Society* (199-205)
Bob Sagoff, *Do we Consume too Much?* (205-221)

Oct 13: Kristin Hessler and Elizabeth Willott, *Feminism and Ecofeminism* (232-234)
Karen J. Warren, *The Power and Promise of Ecological Feminism* (234-248)

Week Seven: Eco-feminism

Oct 18: Gita Sen, *Women, Poverty, and Population: Issues for the Concerned Environmentalist* (248-255)
V. Rukmini Rao, *Women Farmers of India's Deccan Plateau; Ecofeminists Challenge World Elites* (255-265)

Oct 20: **In Class Test**

Week Eight: Human Population

Oct 25: Joel Feinberg, *Future Generations* (266-267)
Clark Wolf, *Population, Development and the Environment* (267-274)
Elizabeth Willott, *Recent Population Trends* (274-283)

Oct 27: Garrett Hardin, *Tragedy of the Commons* (331-341)
Garrett Hardin, *Living on a Lifeboat* (374-386)

Week Nine: Poverty as an Environmental Problem

Nov 1: David Schmidtz, *The Institution of Property* (361-372)

Nov 3: Peter Singer, *Famine, Affluence, Morality* (386-394)

Week Ten: Poverty as an Environmental Problem

Nov 8: Henry Shue, *Global Environment and International Inequality* (394-404)

Nov 10: Holmes Rolston III, *Feeding People Versus Saving Nature* (404-417)

Week Eleven: Progress and the Ethics of Cost-Benefit Analysis

Nov 15: Gregg Easterbrook, *Why the Good News Shouldn't Scare You* (430-434)
Paul Ehrlich and Anne Ehrlich, *The Good News in Perspective* (443-453)

Nov 17: Steven Kelman, *Cost-Benefit Analysis: And Ethical Critique* (455-462)
Herman B. Leonard and Richard J. Zeckhauser, *Cost-Benefit Analysis Defended* (462-466)
David Schmidtz, *A Place for Cost-Benefit Analysis* (479-491)

Second Critical Essay Due Today**Week Twelve: Environmental Activism**

Nov 22: Bryan G. Norton, *The Environmentalists' Dilemma; Dollars and Sand Dollars* (594-501)
Bryan G. Norton, *Fragile Freedoms* (501-505)
Paul Watson, *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (524-529)

Nov 24: Kate Rawles, *The Missing Shade of Green* (535-546)
J. Baird Callicott, *Environmental Philosophy is Environmental Activism: The Most Radical and Effective Kind* (546-555)

Week Thirteen: Moving Forward...

Nov 29: David Schmidtz, *Natural Enemies: An Anatomy of Environmental Conflict* (417-424).
Andrew Light: *Taking Environmental Ethics Public* (pp. 556-566)

Dec 1: T.B.A.

Week Fourteen: Conclusion

Dec 6: Course Conclusion and Discussion of Exam