

The University of Manitoba
Department of Philosophy

Philosophy 2750: Ethics and Environment

Winter Term 2011
T/TR 1:00-2:15
RM 229, St. Paul's College

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Office Hours: T/Th 2:30-3:30

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

1. Two written assignments, worth 30% each.
2. Two in class tests worth 20% each.

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 week 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.