PHILOSOPHY 2750 (A01) – ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS
COURSE SYLLABUS
1130-1220 MWF
UC 237

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UC 468
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Office Hours: 1000-1115 MTWRF

Course Description: Environmental issues concerning animal rights, sustainable development and climate change have entered public discourse and many have some passing acquaintance with them. What may be less obvious are the challenges that grappling with these issues pose to traditional ethics. This course will examine these issues and seek to highlight the challenges that environmental ethics poses to traditional conceptions of moral agency, responsibility and normative theories of ethics.


Student Evaluation:
- Reading Quizzes: 20%
- Tests: 40%
- Final Examination: 40%

Important Note: Final course grades are subject to the approval of the Faculty of Arts and may be subject to change in order to fall within the parameters set by this Faculty.

Evaluation Explanations:
- Reading Quizzes: There will be an unscheduled reading quiz in each week of class from Sept. 9 to Nov. 29 (twelve in all). Each quiz will be held at the beginning of the selected class and will consist of a single question concerning the reading for that class. The student’s ten best quizzes will count for this grade component. Each quiz is worth 2% of the student’s final grade.
- Tests: There will be two closed book tests, each worth 20% of the student’s final grade, conducted in class throughout the term. The tests will consist of short answer questions. These tests will not be cumulative; they will test the student’s grasp of the course content for the unit preceding the test.
- Final Examination: The final examination will be scheduled in the end-of-term exam period. It will be 2 hours long and it will be ‘closed book.’ Students will be required to compose two essays from a selection of essay topics. The topics will be selected from the entirety of the course. The final exam is worth 40% of the student’s grade.

Late Policy: Overdue work will only be accepted with a documented medical excuse or on the basis of a serious personal crisis. Note that failing to manage one’s time is not a ‘serious personal crisis.’

Academic Dishonesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on plagiarism, cheating and examination impersonation (see the University of Manitoba Academic Regulations, Undergraduate Calendar, 2019-20). Please note that the Philosophy Department possesses a ‘no tolerance’ policy with regard to exam offences.

Approximate Grade Scale:
- A+: 93%+
- A: 87-92%
- B+: 80-86%
- B: 74-79%
- C+: 68-73%
- C: 62-67%
- D: 55-61%
- F: <55%
**APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE**

**Introduction to Ethics**
Sep 4, 6, 9 Nature of Philosophy and Ethics & Course Expectations; Read: text pp. 1-24

**Agency**
Sep 11, 13, 16 Read: text Chapter 1, pp. 26-45, Kant (Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals, pp. 37-54, UM Learn)

Sep 18, 20 Read: text Chapter 3, pp. 74-97, Sagoff (Animal Liberation and Environmental Ethics – Bad Marriage, Quick Divorce, UM Learn)

Sep 23, 25 Read: text Chapter 2, pp. 49-50, 57-71

Sep 27, 30 Read: Sober (Philosophical Problems for Environmentalism, UM Learn), Hume (excerpt from *A Treatise of Human Nature*, UM Learn)

Oct 2, 4 Finish Sober, Read: text Chapter 7, pp. 195-203

Oct 7, 9 Read: text Chapter 9, pp. 234-247, Hursthouse (Environmental Virtue Ethics, UM Learn)

Oct 11 **Test #1**

**Sustainability**
Oct 14 Thanksgiving, no class

Oct 16, 18 Read: Hardin (The Tragedy of the Commons, UM Learn), text Chapter 12, pp. 317-325, Hardin (Living on a Lifeboat, UM Learn)

Oct 21, 23 Finish Hardin, Read: Singer (Famine Affluence and Morality, UM Learn)

Oct 25, 28 Read: text Chapter 12, pp. 325-337, Sagoff (Do We Consume Too Much?, UM Learn)


Nov 4, 6, 8 Read: Shue (Global Environment and International Inequality, UM Learn)

Nov 11 Remembrance Day, no class

Nov 12-15 Fall Break, no classes

Nov 18, 20 Jamieson (Ethics, Public Policy and Global Warming, UM Learn), **Nov 18 VW Date**

Nov 22, 25, 27 Read: Gardiner (A Perfect Moral Storm, UM Learn)

Nov 29, Dec 2 Read: Text Chapter 11, pp. 301-312

Dec 4 **Tips for the Final Exam**

Dec 6 **Test #2**

Dec 9-20 **Final Exam Period**