

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

Instructor: Dave Hampton
UC 468

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Office Hours: Remote & By Appointment

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.

Required Text: none, all course readings will be posted to UM Learn

Student Evaluation:

Mid-Term	45%
Test	20%
Final Examination	35%

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:

Mid-Term: There will be an open book take-home test, worth 45% of the student's final grade on Oct 19. The test will consist of two parts, a short answer part and an essay question. The mid-term will cover the preceding course material.

Test: There will be an open book take-home test worth 20% of the student's final grade on Dec 9. The test will consist of short answer questions covering the course material from Oct 21 to the end of the course.

Final Examination: There will be an open book take-home final examination scheduled in the end-of-term exam period. Students will be required to compose one essay from a selection of essay topics. The topics will concern the course material from the last half of the course. The final exam is worth 35% 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, 2020-21). 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 9, 11, 14..... Read Williston, Introduction to *Environmental Ethics for Canadians*; excerpt from Plato's *Republic*; excerpt from Hume's *A Treatise on Human Nature*; pp. 1-7 of Anscombe's "Modern Moral Philosophy"; Sections I and III of Strawson's "The Impossibility of Moral Responsibility"

What has Moral Value?

Sep 16, 18, 21..... Singer, "All Animals are Equal"; Williston pp. 37-38; Kant (Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals, pp. 37-54)

Sep 23, 25..... Read Leopold, excerpt from *A Sand County Almanac*; Sagoff, "Animal Liberation and Environmental Ethics"

Sep 28, 30..... Read Taylor, "The Biocentric Outlook on Nature"

Oct 2, 5, 7..... Read Sober, "Philosophical Problems for Environmentalism"

Oct 9..... Read Parsons, "Aesthetic Preservation"

Oct 12..... Thanksgiving, no class

Oct 14, 16..... Read Hill, "Ideals of Human Excellence and Preserving Natural Environments"; Hursthouse, "Environmental Virtue Ethics"

Oct 19..... **Mid-Term**

Sustainability

Oct 21, 23..... Read: Hardin, "The Tragedy of the Commons" and Hardin, "Living on a Lifeboat"

Oct 26, 28..... Read: Singer "Famine Affluence and Morality"

Oct 30, Nov 2..... Read: Simon, "Can the Supply of Natural Resources Really be Infinite? Yes!"; Sagoff, "Do We Consume Too Much?"

Nov 4, 6..... Finish up Sagoff; Read: 2014 IPCC Synthesis Report

Nov 9-13..... Fall Break, no classes

Nov 11..... Remembrance Day, no class

Nov 16, 18, 20..... Continue IPCC Report; Read: Shue, "Global Environment and International Inequality"

Nov 23, 25..... Read: Jamieson "Ethics, Public Policy and Global Warming," **Nov 23 VW Date**

Nov 27, 30, Dec 2..... Read: Gardiner, "A Perfect Moral Storm"

Dec 4, 7..... Read: Gardiner, "Saved by Disaster?"

Dec 9..... **Test**

Dec 11..... Tips for the Final Exam

Dec 12-23..... Final Exam Period