

Philosophy & the Environment 148

This course explores contemporary environmental issues from the perspective of philosophy -- primarily ethics, political philosophy, and philosophy of science. In particular, this quarter we'll cover some of the following topics:

Ethics, Food and Animals
Wilderness, Ecology and Ethics: What is Natural?
The Land Ethic
Biodiversity, Assisted Migration and Rewilding
Climate, Ethics and Economics
Future Generations, the Present, and Justice
Property, Pollution and Precaution

More details and tentative reading assignments are below.

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Coordinates	MWF 12-12:50 Peter 102
Final Exam	6-13-2012, 11:30-2:30
Reading	The books are four paperbacks and an electronic book: Desjardins, <i>Environmental Ethics</i> (4 th or 5 th edition) Aldo Leopold, <i>A Sand County Almanac</i> (\$6-10) Elizabeth Kolbert, <i>Field Notes from a Catastrophe</i> (\$10) Christina Eisenberg, <i>The Wolf's Tooth</i> (\$23) Lori Gruen, <i>Ethics and Animals</i> (free! E-lib) The rest of the reading material is electronic, accessible through libraries.ucsd.edu or external internet addresses.
Grades	1. Attendance (for rounding): Attendance will be taken and used as a way of deciding borderline cases. Since every class will contain some material not found in the readings, it is nearly impossible to do well without regular attendance. 2. 4 or 5 two-page 'position' papers. These are short typed essays that require a small amount of outside research. (40 points) For each day your paper is late, five points will be deducted from your

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point total.

3. Exams: midterm (30 points), final (30 points)

Fine Print

In your homeworks, etc., all sources, including discussions with classmates, must be appropriately acknowledged. All answers given must be in your own wording. Closely paraphrasing or simply copying the work of others (such as authors of books or articles, or classmates) is not allowed and will be severely penalized. You must ask me in case you are uncertain whether something constitutes plagiarism. All forms of academic dishonesty will be immediately reported to the Academic Integrity Office. Students agree that by taking this course all required assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site. You must observe the University's Policy on Integrity of Scholarship, which can be found at <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm>. Make-up exams (for midterm and final) will only be given under the most severe circumstances. The student who wishes to write a make-up exam must inform me (by phone or email) before the exam takes place. In order to qualify for a make-up exam, appropriate evidence of the most severe circumstances must be produced by the student. I will determine, in consultation with the student, what qualifies as appropriate evidence.

Weeks 1-2 **Ethics, Food and Animals**

You will be introduced to some basic ethical concepts and the main rival theories, e.g., utilitarian and deontological theories. To spice things up, we'll apply these theories to questions about what we should eat and the moral status of non-human animals.

Desjardins, chapters 2, 5, parts of 6

Gruen, chapters 1-3

Norcross, "Puppies, Pigs, and People"

homepage.mac.com/anorcross/papers/Puppies.pdf

Pollan, "Power Steer" michaelpollan.com/articles-archive/power-steer/

Jacquet, "Silent Water"

jenniferjacquet.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/jacquet2009_eds.pdf

Week 3 **Wilderness, Ecology and Ethics: What is Natural?**

The Wilderness Act of 1964 enshrines our nation's desire to preserve wilderness areas. What is a wilderness? How did this idea arise? Does it make sense? Should we seek to preserve or conserve wilderness, and why? Are there ethically charged unintended consequences of doing so?

Nicholls, *Paradise Found* www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/583402.html

Desjardins, chapters 7 and 8

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Leopold, SCA, selections
Price, "Hats Off to Audubon"
www.audubonmagazine.org/features0412/hats.html
Muir, "Hetch Hetchy Valley" (chapter 16, [1908](#))
www.yosemite.ca.us/john_muir_writings/
Dowie, "Conservation Refugees"
www.orionmagazine.org/index.php/articles/article/161/

Week 4 **The Land Ethic**

Aldo Leopold wrote what many consider to be the finest work in environmental ethics and conservation, *Sand County Almanac*. His thoughts on conservation, ethics, ecology and evolution, expressed in an understated yet beautiful prose, motivate many conservation biologists today. We'll find out why and examine his thought.

Leopold, *SCA*, continued selections
Eisenberg, *Wolfs' Tooth*, selections

Week 5+ **Wilderness, Ecology and Ethics: Biodiversity, Invasive Species, Rewilding**

Conservation sciences have biodiversity as their goal. What is biodiversity and why is it valuable? We'll look at this question and related ones as they play out in controversies involving invasive species, assisted migration, and rewilding.

Eisenberg, selections
Sober, *Philosophical Problems for Environmentalism*
biophilosophy.ca/Teaching/4040papers/Sober1986.pdf

Moriarty & Woods, "[Strangers in a Strange Lands](#)"
Donlan, "[Restoring America's Big, Wild Animals](#),"
Watch *Cane Toads: An Unnatural History*
Optional: Levy, [Island Fox](#) Paradox

May 9th **Midterm!**

Weeks 6-7 **Climate, Ethics and Economics**

Environmental economics has many pros and cons. We'll look at controversies involving cost-benefit analysis, future preference discounting, and more, all in the context of the

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mother of all externalities, climate change. Then we'll briefly tackle the question of your personal moral obligations regarding climate change.

Kolbert, *Field Notes from a Catastrophe*

Desjardins, 3.5-3.8

www.ecosystemvaluation.org/essentials.htm, selections

Sunstein, 'Cost-Benefit Analysis and the Environment',

papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=604581

The Stern Report, short executive summary

Hausman & McPherson, "Beware of Economists Bearing Advice" www.irpp.org/po/archive/sep97/hausman.pdf

"A Battle over the Costs of Global Warming" NYTimes

www.nytimes.com/2007/02/21/business/21leonhardt.html

Jamieson, "[Adaptation, Mitigation and Justice](#)."

s.nyu.edu/docs/IO/1192/Adaptation_Mitigation_Justice.pdf

Sinnott-Armstrong, "It's Not My Fault: Global Warming and Individual Moral Obligations"

Week 8 **Future Generations, The Present Poor, and Justice**

Do we have duties to future generations? If so, what are they? What would intergenerational justice look like? And how do we balance off these claims with present environmental injustice?

Desjardins, chapter 4, 10

Weeks 9-10 **Property, Pollution and Precaution**

What are property rights? Where do they come from? What do they allow you to do? Can you morally pollute your own property? Are they a solution or a cause of environmental problems?

Hardin, [The Tragedy of the Commons](#)

www.sciencemag.org/content/162/3859/1243.full

Gardiner, The Real Tragedy of the Commons

muse.jhu.edu/login?uri=/journals/philosophy_and_public_affairs/v030/30.4gardiner.pdf

Pauly, [Beyond Duplicity and Ignorance in Global Fisheries](#).

Optional: Levy, "Catch Shares Management"

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Sagoff, "Takings, Just Compensation, and the Environment"
Railton, "Locke, Stock, and Peril: Natural Property Rights,
Pollution, and Risk"
Schrader-Frechette, Human Rights and the Duty to Alleviate
Environmental Injustice" *Journal of Human Rights*,
nd.edu/~kshrader/pubs/ksf-jofhumanrights-ej-2007.pdf

Ethics and Animals

<http://www.ucsd.ebib.com/patron/FullRecord.aspx?p=647412>

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