

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
Property, Pollution and Precaution

In each section, I'll try to mix theoretical problems in philosophy with practical problems facing conservation today.

Instructors

Professor Craig Callender

<http://philosophyfaculty.ucsd.edu/faculty/ccallender/>

Office: HSS 8077; Office hrs: Thurs 1:30-2:30 and by appt.

Contact: ccallender@ucsd.edu; 822-4911

Per Milam, ABD

Office: HSS 7093; Office hrs: Tu 5-7
 Contact: pmilam AT ucsd.edu

Coordinates

TuTh 9:30-10:50 Peter 102

Final Exam

Tu 6-11-2013, 8am-11am

Reading

We'll use parts of four books for this course, plus electronic articles accessible through libraries.ucsd.edu or external internet addresses. Because our library has the fourth book electronically, you need only purchase, rent or copy three of them:

Desjardins, *Environmental Ethics* (4th or 5th edition, or rent for [\\$44.25](#))
 Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac* ([any edition](#), \$4-10)
 Marris, Emma, *Rambunctious Garden* ([\\$16.50](#) or rent for \$9.99)
 Lori Gruen, *Ethics and Animals* (free! [E-library](#))

Grades

1. Attendance (for rounding)
2. Exams: midterm (30 points), final (30 points)
3. Papers. 4 two-page single spaced 'position' papers. (40 pts)
4. Project. Understand your environmental impact and see how hard or easy it is to live differently. The choices and scope will be set in class discussion. One of the position papers will be a reflection on this exercise. For the sake of solidarity, Prof Callender will try some of the more taxing options. Choices include:

Going veggy for a week (or vegan, for vegetarians)
 Going without single-use items for 3 days
 Going trash-minimal (by carrying it) for 2 days

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.

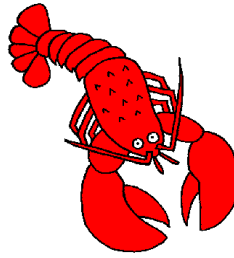
Weeks 1-2

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.

- Gruen, [chapters 1-3](#)
- Norcross, "[Puppies, Pigs and People](#)"
- Desjardins, chapters 2, 5 and parts of 6
- Pollan, "[Power Steer](#)"
- Jacquet, "[Silent Water](#)"
- Optional: Wallace, "[Consider the](#)

[Lobster"](#)



Week 3

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, *Sand County Almanac*, Parts I, II (just "Arizona" and "New Mexico"), III
- Desjardins, chapter 8

Week 4

Wilderness Ethics

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?

- Muir, "[Hetch Hetchy Valley](#)" (1908; ch. 16)
- Price, "[Hats Off to Audubon](#)"
- Dowie, "[Conservation Refugees](#)"
- Desjardins, chapter 4
- Optional: Nichols, *Paradise Found* [excerpt](#)

Weeks 5-6 Ecology and Ethics: Biodiversity, Invasive Species and Restoration

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.

- Marris, Emma, *Rambunctious Garden*
- Sober, [Philosophical Problems for Environmentalism](#)
- Sarkar, "Biodiversity and Conservation"

Extras

- Interview: Eisenberg, *The Wolf's Tooth: Keystone, Predators, Trophic Cascades and Biodiversity*
- [Interview](#): ??, *Rat Island*
- Moriarty & Woods, "[Strangers in a Strange Lands](#)"
- Donlan, "[Restoring America's Big, Wild Animals](#)"
- Levy, [Island Fox](#) Paradox
- Film: Cane Toads: An Unnatural History

Weeks 7-8 Climate, Ethics and the Future

Do we have duties to future generations? If so, what are they? What would intergenerational justice look like? Should we "discount" future interests in our evaluations of costs and benefits? Is environmental economics value-laden? We'll ask all of these questions and more in the context of climate change and some of the distinctive challenges it poses.

- Desjardins, 3.5-3.8; 4.1-4.3
- Hausman and McPherson, "[Beware of Economists Bearing Advice](#)"
- *NYT*, "[A Battle Over the Costs of Global Warming](#)"

- Chaney, "[Climate Change and the Future: Discounting for Time, Wealth and Risk](#)"
- Miller, "[Climate Change and Global Justice](#)"
- Optional: [Ecosystem Valuation](#)

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? When is compensation owed?

- Ross and Amter, "[The Sorcerer's Apprentices](#)" *The Polluters*
- Hardin, [The Tragedy of the Commons](#)
- Pauly, [Beyond Duplicity and Ignorance in Global Fisheries](#).
- Sagoff, "Takings, Just Compensation, and the Environment"
- Railton, "Locke, Stock, and Peril: Natural Property Rights, Pollution, and Risk"
- Optional: Levy, "Catch Shares Management"

Extras

- [Sample Midterm](#) from 2011
- [Cane Toad Facts](#)