

PHIL 148 Philosophy and the Environment

Syllabus
Winter 2015
MWF 12:00-1:00 pm
Solis Hall
Room 109

Andy Lamey
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Office: HSS 7017
Office Hours: MW 1:00-2:00 pm

Overview

This class investigates current environmental issues through the prism of philosophy – primarily ethics, political philosophy, the philosophy of biology and the philosophy of economics. The first half of the class focuses on ethical questions involving the environment as a whole. We will briefly examine the debate over whether non-sentient life possesses inherent moral value before investigating three questions pertaining to anthropogenic climate change. Do developed countries have a special obligation to pay for the costs of preventing it? What is the correct discounting rate, if any, to apply to the future costs of climate change? Finally, do moral obligations to future generations entail an obligation to prevent global warming? The second half of the class addresses philosophical issues pertaining to animals. What is the moral significance of species membership? What principles of interpretation should govern our investigations of other species' abilities? Is it credible to think any nonhuman species make moral judgements? And how should we conceive the notion of species itself? The class is designed to be accessible to students with minimal background in philosophy

Assessment

A 1,500-word essay due 5:00 pm Tue. Jan 27 (25%)

A 2000-word word essay due 5:00 pm Tues. Feb. 24 (30%)

Final exam (30%)

Class participation (15%)

Readings and Schedule

All of the required readings will be available on TED.

Week of January Five: The Intrinsic Value Debate

Holmes Rolston III, "Respect for Life: Counting what Singer Finds of no Account," in *Singer and His Critics*. Dale Jamieson, ed. (Oxford: Blackwell, 1999), pp. 247-68.

Peter Singer, *Practical Ethics: Third Edition* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), pp. 238-55.

2. Week of January 12: Climate Change and Moral Responsibility

Peter Singer, *Practical Ethics: Third Edition* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011), pp. 216-38.

Stephen Gardiner, "A perfect moral storm: climate change, intergenerational ethics and the problem of moral corruption." *Environmental Values* (2006): 397-413.

3. Week of January 19: Species Ethics (No Monday class)

Holmes Rolston III, "Duties to Endangered Species" *BioScience* 35 (1985) pp. 18-26.

Cottrell, Sariah, Jamie L. Jensen, and Steven L. Peck. "Resuscitation and resurrection: The ethics of cloning cheetahs, mammoths, and Neanderthals." *Life Sciences Society and Policy* 10 (2014): 1-17.

4. Week of January 26: Future Generations and Non-identity

Bryan Norton, "Environmental Ethics and the Rights of Future Generations," *Environmental Ethics* 4 (1982), pp. 321-37.

Derek Parfit, "Overpopulation and the Quality of Life," in *Applied Ethics*, Peter Singer ed. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986) pp. 145-64.

Tuesday January 27: First Essay Due 5:00 pm

5. Week of February 2: Climate Change and Discounting

William Nordhaus. *A Question of Balance: Weighing the Options on Global Warming Policies* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2008) Extracts from Chapter 9.

John Broome. *Counting the Cost of Global Warming* (Cambridge: White Horse Press, 1992). Extracts from Chapters 2 and 3.

6. Week of February 9: Critiques of Environmentalism

Ramachandra Guha, "Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique" *Environmental ethics* 11.1 (1989): 71-83.

Luc Ferry, *The New Ecological Order*, Carol Volk, trans. (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1995), pp. 91-107.

Optional extra reading: Boria Sax, *Animals in The Third Reich: Pets, Scapegoats and the Holocaust* (New York, Continuum, 2000), pp. 110-23.

7. Week of February 16: Understanding Animals (No Monday lecture)

Simon Fitzpatrick, "Doing Away with Morgan's Canon." *Mind & Language* 23 (2008): 224-246.

8. Week of February 23: The Species Problem

Richard Richards, *The Species Problem: A Philosophical Analysis* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp 1-16.

Philip Kitcher. "Species." *Philosophy of Science* (1984): 308-333.

Second Essay Due Tues. Feb 24 5:00 pm

9. Week of March 2: Anti-speciesist Ethics

Peter Singer, *Animal Liberation: Second Edition*. (New York: New York Review of Books, 1990), pp. 1-24.

Jeff McMahan, *The Ethics of Killing* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), pp. 66-86, 189-203.

10. Week of March 9: Nonhuman Morality

Sarah Brosnan and Frans De Waal. "Monkeys Reject Unequal Pay." *Nature* 425 (2003): 297-299.

Clive Wynne. "Fair refusal by capuchin monkeys." *Nature* 428 (2004): 140-140.

Sarah Brosnan, "Nonhuman Species' Reactions to Inequity and Their Implications for Fairness." *Social Justice Research* 19 (2006): 153-185.

Week of March 16 Final exam

General Information

Office Hours

I keep both normal and electronic office hours. You are welcome to drop by in person or contact me via Skype (ID: andy_lamey). I am also available by appointment. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

Email Policy

I will be happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

- a) Requests for information about the exam that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.
- b) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.

Submission

Both essays in this class will be submitted electronically. Students are not required to submit a hard copy.

One-time Discretionary Essay Extension

I am happy to grant each student one essay extensions of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension I need to receive your request before noon on the day the essay in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be returned a few days after

those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to only one discretionary essay extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

Late Work

For all assignments of 1,000 words or more handed in after the due date and without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a subsequent penalty of two percent per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your instructor. Assignments that are handed in late and without extension will be returned after those completed on time and will not receive comments.

Feedback

Feedback on written work may take the form of written comments or oral comments from the instructor in a recorded video.

Accommodation for Disability

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone), osd@ucsd.edu (email), disabilities.ucsd.edu (web)

Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at <http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/appendix2.pdf>.

Lecture Slides

Lecture slides will be made available on TED.

Technology in the Classroom

Until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in class.

Waitlist

Students will be admitted to this class according to their place on the waitlist.

The Exam

All students except those registered with the OSD are required to take the exam on the day and time scheduled during finals week.