



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

**PHIL 345 Lec 01 – “Issues in Environmental Ethics”  
Spring Term 2014**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures:** Tuesday and Thursday 3:00-5:45pm, SA 245

**Instructor:** Brandon Holter

**Office:** SS1224

**Phone:** 403-220-6524

**Email:** [bdholter@ucalgary.ca](mailto:bdholter@ucalgary.ca)

**Office Hours:**

Wednesdays 3-4pm and Thursdays 2-3pm

**Required Text:**

*Environmental Ethics for Canadians*. Byron Williston (2012), Oxford University Press.

**Course Description:**

This course introduces students to the central concepts and theories of environmental ethics. We will explore questions such: What is the source of moral value? What kinds of beings deserve moral standing? How should economic and practical considerations be balanced against our responsibility to the environment? Subjects include:

1. *Ethical Theories and Moral Standing*
2. *Theoretical Approaches to Environmental Ethics*
3. *Economic and Practical Constraints on Ethical Duties*
4. *Case Studies in Environmental Sciences*

**Evaluation and Grading:**

- Four short papers (1000 words max) will be worth 40% of the final grade (10% each). Students may write a paper on any ONE of the assigned articles, but they must be turned in **BEFORE** in-class discussion of the piece. In addition, two papers must be turned in before the midterm exam and two after the midterm so that students complete two in each half of the course.

## ***Evaluation and Grading (continued):***

- An in-class midterm on **June 5** will be worth 30% of the final grade.
- A (somewhat scripted) debate: Class time will be set aside for students to work in groups to produce a debate on some ethical issue discussed in class. Grades will be based on both the quality of the arguments produced, and an evaluation of each student's individual contribution from fellow group members. Regular attendance is therefore advised. The debates will take place **June 24** and **26**, and will be worth 30% of the final grade.
- There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam.
- Students may, in principle, fail any one of these components and still pass the course.
- Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>

### ***Grading Method***

96-100 = A+	75-79 = B	55-59 = C-
90-95 = A	70-74 = B-	50-54 = D+
85-89 = A-	65-69 = C+	45-49 = D
80-84 = B+	60-64 = C	below 45 = F

- Late work or make-up tests will only be accepted in case of emergency or prior arrangement.

### ***D2L and Email***

Class information and handouts will be posted on D2L (the University of Calgary's learning management system which has replaced BlackBoard). You will be sent class announcements through email, and the email account used will be the one you gave the University Registrar. So please check that account.

### ***Academic Honesty***

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offence, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

### ***Academic Accommodation***

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a permanent disability or temporary impairment who may require academic accommodation, you must first register with the Student Accessibility Resource Office located in MacEwan Student Centre 452; phone 403-220-8237; email [access@ucalgary.ca](mailto:access@ucalgary.ca). Students who have not registered with the Student Accessibility Office are not eligible for academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course. Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/> for further information.

### ***D2L Help***

Go to <http://www.elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/> for help in using Desire2Learn.

### Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns and Program Planning– Have a question but not sure where to start? The Faculty of Arts' Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts. Drop in at SS110, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). Advisors in the PIC Office can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. You can visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Advice on Philosophy Courses** - You may find answers to your more specific questions about a philosophy degree on the Department of Philosophy's website <http://phil.ucalgary.ca> or contact one of Philosophy's current Undergraduate Advisors (see below)
- **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers** – If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the instructor of the course.

### Protection of Privacy

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor.

### Student Ombudsperson and Students' Union Representatives

The Student Ombuds Office provides independent, impartial, and confidential support for students who require assistance or advice in addressing issues and concerns related to their academic careers. For more information, see [www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds](http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds). For the Students' Union Faculty of Arts rep: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca).

### Safewalk

Call 403-220-5333 (24/7/365) for a Safewalk volunteer to accompany you safely to your destination on campus including parking lots, housing, and the LRT station or use a Campus Help Phone.

#### PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

The Department of Philosophy is located on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at [www.phil.ucalgary.ca](http://www.phil.ucalgary.ca)

#### PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR SPRING 2014:

Chris Framarin (Undergrad Director) [chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:chris.framarin@ucalgary.ca)

Reid Buchanan [buchanar@ucalgary.ca](mailto:buchanar@ucalgary.ca)

Mark Migotti (Honours Program Advisor) [migotti@ucalgary.ca](mailto:migotti@ucalgary.ca)

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell ([schnell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:schnell@ucalgary.ca))