



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 345 Lec 60
“Issues in Environmental Ethics”
Summer Term 2012
Course Outline

Instructor: Greg Janzen
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Lectures: TR 12:00-14:45, SB 148
Office Hour: T 15:00-16:00

Course Description

This course explores a range of philosophical issues in environmental ethics, such as: Is the environment valuable for its own sake, or only as a means to human well-being? Should we extend the realm of rights to include non-human animals, or even non-sentient organisms such as trees? Does an anthropocentric environmental ethic protect the environment adequately? Are we morally obligated to redistribute resources to help those who are suffering from chronic malnutrition? What, if anything, do we owe future generations? The course has two principal aims: (1) to help students become conversant with some of the classic and contemporary literature in environmental ethics, and (2) to equip students with some techniques for the critical analysis of this literature.

Text

The required text for the course is *Environmental Ethics: What Really Matters, What Really Works*, 2nd edition, eds. D. Schmidtz and E. Willott (OUP). Most of the readings for the course can be found in this text. Additional required readings (or links to) will be made available on Blackboard.

Evaluation

There will be one essay (5-6 pages, double-spaced, 12 point font) worth 30% of the final grade, a midterm in-class exam worth 30%, and a take-home final exam worth 40%. There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

To ensure fairness to those who submit their essays on time, late submissions will be penalized three marks for each day they are late, unless some university recognized ground for delay (e.g., illness, bereavement) is provided. The time between Friday and Monday counts as one day. For your essay to be considered on time, I have to receive a hard copy by 4pm on the day it's due. Essays can be submitted in class or in the Phil 345 Lec 60 assignment drop slot, which can be found in the Philosophy Department (SS 12th floor). *Essays will not be accepted via email (or otherwise electronically), or under my office door, under any circumstances. Late final exams will not be accepted unless a university recognized ground for delay is provided.*

Grading assignments is more of an art than a science, but as a rough guide the essays will be graded according to the following criteria: (1) degree of understanding of the material; (2) quality of philosophical argument; and (3) clarity of expression. The following conversion table will be used to calculate final letter grades:

< 50% F	60-63 C-	70-74 B-	86-91 A-
50-54 D	64-66 C	75-79 B	92-96 A
55-59 D+	67-69 C+	80-85 B+	97-100 A+

Assignment and Test Schedule

Midterm Exam	Given on Tuesday, July 24
Essay	Due on Thursday, August 9
Take-Home Final Exam	Due on Friday, August 17

INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

Intellectual honesty is the cornerstone of the development and acquisition of knowledge and requires that the contribution of others be acknowledged. As a result, 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 and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. The University Calendar states that plagiarism exists when:

- *the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test;*
- *parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;*
- *the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source; and/or*
- *a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.*

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal 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.

STUDENTS' UNION REPRESENTATIVES

The Faculty of Arts Representatives are: Sarah Damberger arts1@su.ucalgary.ca; Hana Kadri arts2@su.ucalgary.ca; Kelsy Norman arts3@su.ucalgary.ca; Jack Mills arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial FOIP Act in all aspects of its operations as a publicly funded institution. 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.

SAFEWALK: PROMOTING CAMPUS SAFETY AND AWARENESS

Twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, Safewalk volunteers walk people safely to their destination on campus. This service is free and available to students, staff, and campus visitors. Safewalks are done in male/female pairs. The volunteers walk anywhere on campus (including McMahon Stadium, Health Sciences, Student Family Housing, the Alberta Children's Hospital and the University LRT station). To request a Safewalk volunteer to walk with you, call 403-220-5333 (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year) or use one of the Help Phones located across campus (they are not just for emergencies).