



FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

## PHIL 345 Lec 01 – “Issues in Environmental Ethics”

Fall Term 2010

### Course Outline

**Lectures:** 2:00-3:15 Tuesday and Thursday, EDC 255

**Instructor:** Chris Framarin

**Office:** SS 1212

**Phone:** 403-220-5532

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

**Office Hours:** 11:45-1:45 Tuesdays and by appointment

### ***Course Description***

This course examines philosophical issues in environmental ethics, such as: Is the environment valuable for its own sake, or only as a means to the well-being of humans? Is the value of the environment based on human valuing? Does an anthropocentric ethic protect the environment adequately? Does the value of living beings depend on their capacities or potential? Can the notion of an entity's good be understood in terms of biological functions? We will also consider arguments about the status of the environment in various Hindu texts and traditions.

### ***Required Texts***

- Light, A. and Rolston, H. III. 2003 *Environmental Ethics: An Anthology* (Malden, MA: Blackwell) (available at Bookstore)
- Additional Readings (available on Blackboard)

### ***Evaluation***

Students will write three papers (3-5 pages). Grades will be calculated as follows:

Participation in class discussion	10%
Paper One (Thursday, Oct. 7)	25%
Paper Two (Thursday, Nov. 11)	30%
Paper Three (Monday, Dec. 13)	35%

There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam.

All papers are due in class.

A passing grade is not required on any single assignment.

### ***Grading Method***

A letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

96-100	A+	80-84.9	B+	65-69.9	C+	53-54.9	D+
90-95.9	A	75-79.9	B	60-64.9	C	50-52.9	D
85-89.9	A-	70-74.9	B-	55-59.9	C-	<50	F

### ***Policy on Late Assignments***

I expect you to attend every class and arrive on time. The participation grade is calculated based on in-class discussion. Late papers are reduced by one grade (for example, an A- becomes a B+) per day. If you miss class, get notes from another student and see me during office hours or by appointment. I do not make my notes directly available to students.

### ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

(I reserve the right to make changes to the course schedule as appropriate)

#### **Week One**

Tuesday September 14

Introduction to Arguments

Issues in Environmental Ethics

HW: Regan, "The Nature and Possibility of an Environmental Ethic" (Blackboard)

Thursday September 16

Regan

HW: O'Neil, "The Varieties of Intrinsic Value" (Light and Rolston, p. 131)

#### **Week Two**

Tuesday September 21

O'Neil

HW: Rolston III, "Value in Nature and the Nature of Value" (Light and Rolston, p. 143)

Thursday September 23

Rolston III

HW: Lee, "The Source and Locus of Intrinsic Value: A Reexamination" (Light and Rolston, p. 154)

#### **Week Three**

Tuesday September 28

Lee

First Paper Assignment Distributed in Class

HW: Norton, "Environmental Ethics and Weak Anthropocentrism" (Light and Rolston, p. 163)

Thursday September 30

Norton

HW: Hargrove, "Weak Anthropocentric Intrinsic Value" (Light and Rolston, p. 175)

## **Week Four**

Tuesday October 5

Hargrove

HW: Taylor, "The Ethics of Respect for Nature" (Light and Rolston, p. 74)

Thursday October 7

First Paper Assignment Due

Taylor

HW: Lombardi, "Inherent Worth, Respect, and Rights" (Blackboard)

## **Week Five**

Tuesday, October 12

Lombardi

HW: Taylor, "Are Humans Superior to Animals and Plants?" (Blackboard)

Thursday, October 14

Taylor

HW: Catch up on all reading

## **Week Six**

Tuesday, October 19

Catch up on all readings

HW: Thompson, "A Refutation of Environmental Ethics" (Blackboard)

Thursday, October 21

Thompson

HW: Goodpaster, "On Being Morally Considerable" (Blackboard)

## **Week Seven**

Tuesday, October 26

Goodpaster

HW: Feinberg, "The Rights of Animals and Unborn Generations" (Blackboard)

Thursday, October 28

Feinberg

HW: Varner, "Biological Functions and Biological Interests" (Blackboard)

## **Week Eight**

Tuesday, November 2

Varner

HW: Delancey, "Teleofunctions and Oncomice" (Blackboard)

Thursday, November 4

Delancey

Second Paper Assignment Distributed in Class

HW: Deutsch, "Vedanta and Ecology" (Blackboard)

## **Week Nine**

Tuesday, November 9

Deutsch

HW: Coward, "The Ecological Implications of Karma Theory" (Blackboard)

Thursday, November 11

Remembrance Day/Reading Day – No Class

## **Week Ten**

Tuesday, November 16

Second Paper Assignment Due

Coward

HW: Framarin paper #1 (Blackboard)

Thursday, November 18

Framarin paper #1

HW: Nelson, "The Dualism of Nondualism: Advaita Vedanta and the Irrelevance of Nature"

## **Week Eleven**

Tuesday, November 23

Nelson

HW: Framarin paper #2: "The Value of Nature in Indian (Hindu) Traditions" (Blackboard)

Thursday, November 25

Framarin paper #2

HW: Mumme, "Models and Images for a Vaisnava Environmental Theology" (Blackboard)

## **Week Twelve**

Tuesday, November 30

Third Paper Assignment Distributed in Class

Mumme

HW: Framarin paper #3: "Atman, Identity, and Emanation: Arguments for an Indian Environmental Ethic" (Blackboard)

Thursday, December 2

Framarin paper #3

HW: Framarin paper #4

## **Week Thirteen**

Tuesday, December 7

Framarin paper #4

HW: Finish Rough Draft of Paper for Thursday In-Class Paper Workshop

Thursday, December 9

In-Class Paper Workshop

HW: Finish Papers. Papers Due Monday, December 13, 4 p.m., Philosophy Department Drop-Box

## **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 Laura Golebiowski ([arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca)), Bhuvana Sankaranarayanan ([arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca)), Lara Schmitz ([arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca)), and Vincent St. Pierre ([arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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 unless other arrangements have been made in writing and filed with the Department Administrator.

## **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).