



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 345 Lec 20 – “Environmental Ethics”
Spring Term 2013
Course Outline

Lectures: Science A, Room 245; Tuesday and Thursday, 3-5:45 PM

Instructor: Frank Jankunis

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Office Hour: Thursday, 6-7 PM, or by appointment

Course Description

Environmental ethics is the branch of ethics that studies how we should conduct ourselves with respect to the world around us. A central theoretical issue in environmental ethics is whether, why, and to what extent we have good reason to take things around us into moral consideration. In the first part of the course we will critically consider a variety of arguments for taking things like animals, trees, land, and environments into moral consideration. In the second part of the course we will consider the ethics of environmental issues such as the preservation and restoration of wilderness, food production, and climate change. You can expect to be introduced to the central lines of debate over the issue of moral consideration and to be equipped with tools and strategies to understand and critically appraise the ethics of environmental issues.

Required Texts

Environmental Ethics: what really matters, what really works. 2nd Edition. (2012) David Schmidtz and Elizabeth Willott, Eds. Oxford University Press.

Additional readings will be posted or linked on Blackboard.

Reading Schedule

A tentative reading schedule will be posted on Blackboard. Should any topic take more or less time than planned, or some other contingency arise, adjustments to it may need to be made. I reserve the right to make such adjustments at any time.

Evaluation

Component	Weighting	Due date
5 Reflective summaries	25% (5% each)	Due at the beginning of each Tuesday class meeting except the first
Midterm	35%	June 6
Final paper	40%	June 28, 4 PM

Reflective Summaries

Reflective summaries (RSs) are short (approximately 1 page) assignments based on your study of the upcoming week’s readings. Each assignment should briefly summarize the main points of one or more of the week’s readings *and* raise an evaluative issue with at least one of the points summarized. I will post an example on Blackboard.

A RS on the upcoming week's readings is due at the beginning of each Tuesday class meeting. Do not bring a hard copy to class; rather, hand it in by following the "RS Submission Portal" link on the course's Blackboard page.

Over the course of the semester I will accept up to but not more than 5 RS assignments for credit from each student. No RS will be accepted on the first day of class. That leaves 6 Tuesday class meetings to submit a RS, meaning you have the option to forgo handing in a RS once before missed assignments will begin to lower your grade. It also means that you cannot submit more than 5 assignments for credit in order to improve your grade.

Midterm exam

The midterm will test your understanding of the material we have covered in the course prior to the test.

Term Paper

Your term paper should explain and critically evaluate a claim or theory studied in the course. A list of potential paper topics and further instruction for the term paper will be distributed well before its due date. Students may write on a topic that has not been assigned as long as I have approved it in advance.

The term paper is to be submitted ***in hard copy*** on its due date to the course drop box in the main hallway of the Department of Philosophy. The Department is located on the 12th floor of the Social Sciences building. Ensure that you place your paper in the correct drop box and bear in mind the Department closes and the drop box is cleared at 4 PM!

General

- There will be no Registrar-scheduled final examination for this course.
- Writing and the grading thereof is a factor in the evaluation of your work for this course. For further explanation, see the University Calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-2.html>
- It is in principle possible to fail any one of the grading components and still pass the course.

Grading Method

All grading components will be assigned a percentage grade. Final percentage grades will be calculated using following formula:

$(RS) \times .25 + (\text{Midterm}) \times .35 + (\text{Final}) \times .4$

Final letter grades will be converted from final percentage grades using the following scale.

95-100 = A+	77-79 = B+	67-69 = C+	57-59 = D+
85-94 = A	74-76 = B	64-66 = C	50-57 = D
80-84 = A-	70-73 = B-	60-63 = C-	< 50 = F

Course Policies

Late Coursework

RSs will not be accepted late. The mid-term can be written at an alternative date and time only if you produce medical or other formal documentation to substantiate the need to do so. Otherwise, a grade of 0 will be recorded. If you miss the midterm *and* have the appropriate documentation you should get in touch with me as soon as possible to reschedule. Papers can be submitted late (in hard copy only) at a penalty of 5%/48 hour period (or portion thereof) from the due date and time. For example, if you submit your paper on July 1 at 3 PM, and on its own merits the paper is worth 80%, you'll receive a grade of 70% for it.

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 documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, contact the DRC Office at 403-220-8237. 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.

Blackboard Help

Go to <http://www.ucalgary.ca/computersupport/onlineservices/blackboard> for Student Help and FAQs about Blackboard. Troubleshooting tips and a tutorial are available at <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/blackboard/students>.

Student Advising and Information Resources

- General Academic Concerns – 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. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undersgraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns.
- **Program Planning** – For assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation, contact the Student Success Centre at 403-220-5881 or visit it on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- **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, contact the instructor of the course.

Protection of Privacy and Return of Work

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. See www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds for more information. The Students' Union Faculty of Arts representative can be reached at 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 12th floor of the Social Sciences Building and on the web at www.phil.ucalgary.ca

PHILOSOPHY UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM ADVISORS FOR SPRING 2013:

Ann Levey (levey@ucalgary.ca)
Jeremy Fantl (ifantl@ucalgary.ca)
Lorraine Markotic (lmarkoti@ucalgary.ca)

For assistance with registration issues in Philosophy courses, contact Merlette Schnell (msnell@ucalgary.ca)