



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Philosophy

PHIL 345 Lec 01

Issues in Environmental Ethics

Winter 2023

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 11am – 11:50am in MS 319

COURSE OUTLINE

Instructor Name: Dan Kary

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Office: SS 1254

Office Hours: By appointment (zoom or in person)

COURSE INFORMATION

An examination of ethical issues related to human interaction with natural environments and the entities that live within those environments such as: what sorts of value might non-human entities have? Are they valuable for their own sake, or just as a means toward enhancing the well being of human beings? Is their value independent or dependent on being valued by somebody capable of making such valuations? What sorts of duties (if any) do we owe to non-human entities? How strongly should we consider the interests of non-human entities in deciding what to do? How should we resolve conflicts of interests between humans and non-humans? Are positions such as anthropocentrism and speciesism ever sensible? How should we rank the moral importance of individuals, species, and ecosystems?

PREREQUISITE(S)

There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Broad knowledge and comprehension of a diverse set of philosophical issues, concepts, problems, traditions, and views regarding environmental ethics.
- Ability to critically, fairly, clearly, thoughtfully, and charitably, state, explain, evaluate, and discuss basic arguments and ideas for various positions regarding environmental ethics.
- Ability to construct and communicate ideas and arguments that are convincing, plausible, and productive in support of one's own positions pertaining to environmental ethics.

REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS

All readings will be available on D2L

COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Participation (Monday January 6 to Wednesday April 12)

10%

The participation grade is based on regular, polite, civil, respectful, and thoughtful participation in class discussions. A student can earn one participation point per class so long as that participation makes a meaningful contribution and/or has the potential to generate further discussion. The participation grade is determined by adding the participation points from eligible in-class participation (up to a maximum of 10 points).

If a student is unable to participate in a class, they may contact the instructor for an alternative means of participation.

Exams

Quiz 1 (Monday January 23)	15%
Test 1 (Friday February 10)	20%
Test 2 (Wednesday March 8)	20%
Test 3 (Monday March 27)	20%
Quiz 2 (Wednesday April 12)	15%

All exams will be the same format: short answer questions. Exams can be accessed via D2L. There will be no registrar-scheduled final exam. Exams cannot be taken on days other than those indicated, unless communicated otherwise, without prior arrangement or an acceptable excuse. The exams are semi-open book. Students may use their own personal notes and the readings. *No other materials are permitted and students are not permitted to communicate with one another about the exam until all students have written the exam.*

Letter Grade Conversion Table

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

A+ 95-100	B+ 80-84.9	C+ 67-69.9	D+ 55-59.9
A 90-94.9	B 75-79.9	C 63-66.9	D 50-54.9
A- 85-89.9	B- 70-74.9	C- 60-62.9	F 0-49.9

IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

Absence or Missed Course Assessments

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

Student Support and Resources

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at ucalgary.ca/current-students/student-services

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information

- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

Academic Advising

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising> for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy. Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director jfantl@ucalgary.ca) or David Dick (Honours Advisor dgdick@ucalgary.ca).

Writing Assessment and Support

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance. For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success.

Required Technology

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote, and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Responsible Use of D2L

Important information and communication about this course will be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/>. The instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the [University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy](#).

Media Recording

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

Academic Misconduct/Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary

sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html.

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 referencing, please consult your instructor.

University Policies

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Intellectual-Property-Policy.pdf

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/access-information-privacy>. The instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments *directly* to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>).