

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Philosophy 447 Lec 01 - Environmental Ethics
Winter 2009

Instructor: Allen Habib

Dates/Times: January 12 – April 15th, M-W-F 12:00-12:50pm

Office Hours: M-W-F 1:00-2:00 pm

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Course Description: The goal of the course is to introduce students to the philosophical issues concerning the environment. Basic ethical theories and concepts, as well as specific issues such as animal rights, human and global ecology, production, consumption and pollution will be covered in detail.

Text: The text will be *Environmental Ethics: an Anthology*, Light and Rolston, eds., (Blackwell 2008). It is available in the bookstore, as well as online.

Assignments: There will be four grades assigned in the course

-A mid-term exam, worth 30%

-A research term paper, worth 35%

-A choice between a second paper and a group presentation, worth 35%

Mid-Term Exam: The mid term will be an in class exam, comprised off both short and long answer questions. It is scheduled for **Friday, February 13th**.

Term Paper: The term papers must be research papers on an issue pertinent to the class, 6-8 pages (1500-2000 words) long, with citations and a bibliography. The first is due after the break on **Monday, February 23rd**. The second is due on the last day of classes, **Friday, April 17th**. See below for the decision to do a second paper or presentation.

Group Presentations: Students must decide by the first paper deadline (**February 23rd**) whether they want to do a group presentation. Those who choose to do a group presentation can submit either the first or second paper. I will ask for lists of groups during the first week back from break (**February 23-27**). Groups must set a date and topic with me by **Monday, March 9th**.

Groups of 5-6 members must present an analysis of a relevant issue to the class for 15 minutes, followed by 5 minutes of questions. The group must also submit a short (2-3 pages) synopsis of the presentation, and a bibliography. A grade will be assigned to the group as a whole. The presentations will be held on the last week of classes, **April 13, 15th and 17th**.

Marking Scheme: A letter grade from D to A will be assessed for each assignment. The final grade will be calculated by using the GPA equivalents, with the following distribution:

A=4.0	A-=3.7	
B+=3.3	B=3.0	B-=2.7
C+=2.3	C=2.0	C-=1.7
D+=1.3	D=1.0	
F=0		

So, for example, a student who received an A- on the mid-term exam, a B on the paper, a B+ on the group presentation would receive a final grade of **B+** $(3.7*0.30) + (3.0*0.35) + (3.3*0.35) = 3.3 = \text{B+}$ GPA scores will be calculated to 1 decimal place.

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 is an extremely serious offence. 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, please 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 REPRESENTATIVE

The Humanities Representative is Daniel Pagan, MSC 251, humanitiesrep@su.ucalgary.ca or 220-3913.