



FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 649.6 Lec 01 – Topics in Ethics: “Sustainability & Environmental Justice”

Winter Term 2013

Course Outline

Lectures: Thursdays, 3:30-5:00 in Education Tower (EDT) 920

Instructor: Allen Habib

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 1:30-2:30

Course Description

This is a graduate seminar in environmental ethics, held concurrently with an upper level undergraduate course. The primary focus will be on intergenerational environmental justice. We will cover three broad areas: sustainability, the problem of future people and climate change

Required Texts

We will use a combination of journal articles, essays in collections and chapters from books. All the texts will be available on-line, either through the University’s library site or otherwise. Some material from the following books will be used:

- Environmental Justice: Creating Equity, Reclaiming Democracy, Kristin Shrader-Frechette
- Fairness and Futurity: Essays on Environmental Sustainability and Social Justice, Andrew Dobson (ed)
- Justice and the Environment: Conceptions of Environmental Sustainability and Theories of Distributive Justice, Andrew Dobson
- Reasons and Persons, Derek Parfit
- Future People: A Moderate Consequentialist Account of our Obligations to Future Generations, Tim Mulgan
- The Perfect Moral Storm: The Ethical Tragedy of Climate Change

Evaluation

There will be one research paper, 12-15 pages (3000-4000 words), due at the end of term, on **Thursday, April 11th. The Term paper will be worth 65% of the final grade.**

There will be one APA-style 20-25 minute presentation of the paper, with commentary, followed by a Q&A session. The presentations will be held in the final two weeks of the class, on **April 12th and April 16th. The presentations will be worth 10% of the final grade**

There will be one commentary on another student's presentation, 5-10 minutes long. **The commentary will be worth 10% of the final grade.**

There will be weekly short (1-2 page) writing assignments on the assigned readings. The shorties will be worth **15% of the final grade.**

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>

There is **no** Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course

Grading Method

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=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		

A+ is awarded for outstanding work, although its GPA value is identical to an A grade.

Policy on Late Assignments

Late assignments will be accepted on a case-by-case basis, with some penalty attached, generally not more than one letter grade per week. There will be a drop box for the course, located in the philosophy department offices, on the 12th floor of the social science building. The boxes are emptied daily at 4:00 pm.

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.