



Course Outline

Course Title
Environmental Ethics

Course mnemonic
HUMN307
Section number
F001

Credits **3**

Hours per week **3**
Prerequisites
2nd Year

Instructor
Carol Gigliotti, PhD

Office number **243E**

Office telephone **844-3800** Local TBA

Day/Time
Tuesday/8:30-11:20pm

Start Date **Sept 8**
Term End Date
Dec. 15

Location
NB 287/291
**** Please see note on Syllabus page re last week of classes.**

Fax **604 844-3801**

Email
gigliott@ecuad.ca
Office hours
Tuesday 3:30- 5:00pm

Website Catalogue Description | www.ecuad.ca

Mounting concerns about a variety of environmental issues, from pollution to global warming to the extinction of species, have begun to inform the practices in art, design and media. Those concerns imply forms of action being taken about those issues. But what ethical assumptions underlie various actions. Is it a concern for human well-being? For animals? For all life? Or, even more broadly, for ecosystems? In other words, which things count ethically?

Course Content [for this specific offering of this course]

The primary goal of this course is to prepare students to understand and to critically evaluate various ethical perspectives on human beings' interactions with nature and these perspectives' applications to environmental issues. An important secondary goal is to provide students with tools to integrate those perspectives into their practice as cultural workers

Course Learning Outcomes

Resource materials:

Required Reading: Zimmerman, M, et. al. (ed.) Environmental Ethics: from Animal Rights to Radical Ecology. Available for sale in the Read Book store.

Several essays will be available on the Moodle site for this course. Recommended reading will also be listed but not available on the Moodle site for this course. Recommended books and readings are just that: recommended. I've listed them here as a way for you to dig deeper into topics that interest you. I will also offer short videos, www sites and other information in class that will be helpful in investigating particular topics.

Evaluation Criteria

Participation	...10%
Presentations	...15%
First Response Paper	...20%
Second Response Paper	...20%
Final Paper/Exam	...35%
Total	100%

Opportunities for understanding these perspectives will be offered through readings, lectures, class discussion, and films and videos. Students' projects will include response papers, team presentations, and final exams projects and proposals.

Evaluation Criteria definitions

Assignments:

Response Papers:

You will be asked to write two "response" papers consisting of 2-double-spaced pages (700-750 words). In these papers, you will draw on the course readings and discussions to craft a brief, focused argument in response to an assigned statement. For instance, you might be asked to respond to the statement: "Environmental problems are linked to economic, social and political positions." You could then agree with the statement, disagree with it, or take a position in the middle. Your position would need to be well supported and would need to take account of opposing points of view. What will determine your grade will not be the position you take so much as the sophistication and rigor with which you support it. Of course, the paper must be cited with references using the MLA Style. Please see the ECU Writing Center website for a detailed handout at <http://www.ecuad.ca/wc/writingcentrehandouts.html>

First Response Paper due: At the start of class, **Tuesday, October 13**

Second Response Paper due: At the start of class, **Tuesday, November 10**

Presentations:

As a way to focus discussion and give you practice applying some of the theories we explore in class to current environmental issues, each class meeting will feature a 15-minute presentation by a student team. The teams will choose a current environmental issue, introduce it, and use it to support and/or challenge theories from that week's readings. Teams will also produce a 2-3 page written summary of their presentation. Of course, the paper must be cited with references using the MLA Style. Please see the ECU Writing Center website for a detailed handout at <http://www.ecuad.ca/wc/writingcentrehandouts.html>

You will sign up for teams and dates in the second week of class. Presentations will begin in week four. Every member of the team will receive the same grade.

Take-Home Final Exam/Paper or Project Proposal:

This will be a take home exam in which you will be asked to write approximately 8-10double-spaced pages (2400-3000 words). I will be giving out a series of questions from which you may choose. The exam/paper you write will synthesize course readings and link them to issues and/or situations we have discussed in class. More importantly, it will also offer you a chance to articulate your own ideas on how you might put these ideas into practice in your work. Of course, the paper must be cited with references using the MLA Style. Please see the ECU Writing Center website for a detailed handout at <http://www.ecuad.ca/wc/writingcentrehandouts.html>

Due Date: 12/08/09, Tuesday

Expectations:

Participation:

While formally a lecture course, our class meetings will in fact be quite interactive. You'll need to come to both lecture and section with the reading done and with the ability to participate in a class discussion.

To participate effectively, you should aim to speak in a way that moves a discussion forward and increases the learning for the whole group. Contributions can include questions, insights, and responses to other comments. They can also include provocative mistakes. Being “wrong” but intellectually adventurous can often help jumpstart everyone’s thinking. One powerful comment or question is worth more than many less powerful remarks.

Writing:

Your writing needs to come in on time, on the due date listed and should represent your best work at every level. Papers that come in late or with errors of fact, grammar or spelling will be penalized. As ever, the Honor Code applies to all your work.

***Attendance and Punctuality**

You are required to attend all classes. Absence and lateness will affect your grade for the course. Therefore, you should be aware of the following criteria:

- You will receive a 5% penalty for each absence and a 2.5% penalty for each time that you are late for class.
- You will be considered late if you arrive after attendance is taken, when the class has formally begun. Furthermore, you are subject to the same penalty if you leave the session before it has properly ended.
- Being more than one hour late is equivalent to being absent. To formally excuse an absence due to illness or emergency, you must phone or email the instructor before the start of class. You are required to provide proof of a legitimate excuse, such as a doctor’s note. It is also your responsibility to determine what you missed and what you must do to complete any assigned work.

**** Projects submitted late:** 100% of the project marks will be deducted for any project submitted late.

General Notes (policies and procedures)

- The instructor may modify the material or schedule specified in this outline. Any required changes will be announced in class.
- Late assignments or projects may be penalized as specified in the course outline.
- It is plagiarism to present someone else’s work or ideas as one’s own. Plagiarism may result in failure on an assignment, of the course, and, if repeated, expulsion from the Institute. Assistance with the ethical practices of attribution and documentation is available from the Writing Centre or online at www.ecuad.ca/wc
- A student must provide a doctor’s note to Student Services for any illness which causes the student to miss assignments, tests, projects, exams, etc., or for absences of more than two classes. At the discretion of the instructor the student may complete the work for a prorated grade.
- Students will demonstrate that they understand and practice the safe use of tools and other equipment, materials, and processes used in their course projects. They will conduct themselves in a responsible manner that does not endanger themselves or others, and will adhere to the area procedures regarding authorized operation of equipment, handling of materials, and use of space.
- Students with special needs or disabilities that might affect their experience or performance in class are advised to inform their instructor and/or contact the Disabilities Services Coordinator, located in Student Services, for assistance.
- Professional counseling or therapy is available at no charge to students who have concerns of a personal nature. All information shared is held in strict confidence. Call 604.844.3850 or 604.844.3081 for an appointment with the support counselor.
- The Writing Centre is a service that Emily Carr provides to all students, staff and faculty from every program area who would like to improve their reading, writing, critical thinking, and research skills. This is a free, voluntary and confidential service. Writing Centre instructors can help you at every stage of your writing, from developing ideas to final revision. This applies to any kind of writing, from a three line artist’s statement to a twenty page academic paper. Please sign up for a ½ hour appointment on the door (room 435 SB). Telephone: 604 629 4511, Coordinator: Karolle Wall.
- Email is an official means of communication with ECU students by the faculty, administration and other service providers on campus. Email routing will be confined to the University’s internal communication network, and delivered to an officially assigned and verifiable University Email Address (IEA). All users are bound by the provisions of ECU Policy 415: Code of Conduct for Appropriate Use of Information Technology Facilities and Services (outlined on ECU website and Emily’s A to Z). Instructors will outline and detail the expected extent and parameters of email use in this course in the first class, and clarify the timeframe for checking and responding to emails.

Suggested Substitute: Name _____ **PH#** _____

Syllabus/Course schedule**No classes on the following dates:**

October 12 Thanksgiving Day – Institute closed

November 11 Remembrance Day – Institute closed

DATE	W K	TOPIC	READING FOR NEXT WEEK	ASSIGNMENT DUE NEXT WEEK
9/08/09	1	Introduction	For Week 2: Read Tom Regan Original in Regan, Tom. "Ethical Thinking and Theory in <i>The Case for Animal Rights</i> . Berkeley: University of California Press. 1983. 126-135. Available at: the Moodle Site for the Class AND Michael Zimmerman's Introduction, p.vii-4	Prepare to sign up for team presentations
9/15/09	2	I. Environmental Ethics Introductions Sign up for Team Presentations	For Week 3: Read Callicott's Introduction, p. 5-15. AND Routley, p.16-24.	
9/22/09	3	1.Environmental Ethics	For Week 4: Read Descartes available online or in .pdf at the Moodle site for the Class ALSO, Read BOTH Singer, p. 25-38 AND Regan, p. 39-52 essays.	
9/29/09	4	1.Environmental Ethics Team One Presentation	For Week 5: Read Taylor, p. 67-81 AND Calicott, p.130-138.	
10/05/09	5	1.Environmental Ethics Team Two Presentation	For Week 6: Read Rolston, p.82-102. AND Leopold, p.102-115	
10/13/09	6	1.Environmental Ethics Team Three Presentation	For Week 8: Read Warren, <i>Introduction</i> , p. 139-154 AND Cuomo, p. 194-207.	First Response Paper Due
10/20/09	7	2. Ecofeminism and Social Justice Team Four Presentation	For Week 9: Read Garrard and Gruen, p. 155-177 AND Shiva, p. 178-193.	

10/27/09	8	2. Ecofeminism and Social Justice Team Five Presentation	For Week 10: Read Mellor, p. AND Sturgeon, p, 228-251.	
11/03/09	9	2. Ecofeminism and Social Justice Team Six Presentation	For Week 10: Read Klaver Introduction, p. 281-295 AND read ONE OTHER essay from Part 3.	
11/10/09	10	3. Environmental Continental Philosophy Team Seven Presentation	For Week 11: Read Clarke Introduction, p. 361-389 AND Read Steve Best, The Killing Fields of South Africa: Eco-Wars, Species Apartheid, and Total Liberation Available online at the Moodle site for the Class.	Second Response Paper Due
11/17/09	11	4. Political Ecology Team Eight Presentation	For Week 12: Read Anderson and Leal, p. AND Partridge, p. 430-449.	
11/24/09	12	4. Political Ecology Team Nine Presentations	For Week 13: Read O'Connor, p. 450-461 and Watson, 479-495.	
12/01/09	13	4. Political Ecology Team Ten Presentations	Final Exam/Paper/Project proposal due 12/08	
12/08/09	14	Last day of class/Final Discussion	Hand in Final Exam/Paper or Project Proposal	
12/15/09	15	NO CLASS		

GENERAL COURSE OUTLINE