

Environmental Ethics

Fall 2013

Dr Dan Perry

3 academic hours, 3 credits. Undergraduate

Course description

This course is an introductory survey of key issues and debates in contemporary environmental ethics and philosophy. It introduces students to varieties of environmental thought, in their philosophical and cultural contexts. The course will deal with the glossary and principles of the definition of ethics. We will read and discuss some central texts in environmentalism; compare and contrast schools of thought (such as deep and social ecology); explore the interaction of environmental, social and political issues; and clarify our own values and life choices surrounding these questions. Key topics include: animal liberation, environmental ethics in western and non-western religions, deep ecology, sustainability, and social ecology.

Assignments

In pairs, students will prepare a presentation on assigned issues and present them in front of class

Examinations

There will be one quiz during the semester. The final exam at the end of term will be comprised of 2 essay questions.

There will be 7 reading quizzes with short, multiple choice answers, the top 5 will be used for the final grade.

Grading

Participation	15%
Reading Quizzes	10%
Quiz	15%
Presentation	20%
Exam	40%

Textbook

Michael Zimmerman et. al., eds. (2004) Environmental Philosophy: From Animal Rights to Radical Ecology, 4th edition (Prentice Hall 2004). Except where indicated, all reading is from this volume (EP)

Lecture 1. Introduction to the course and to ethics 20,21,27,28 Feb.
Lecturer: Dan Perry
Readings : Rachels J (1986) "The Utilitarian approach", in: Rachels J and S Rachels, *The Elements of Moral Philosophy 6th Edition*. Pp. 97-123
Cruzer H J (1999) "Deontology: Kant", in Cruzer H J *Ethical theory and Moral Problems*. Pp. 191-201.

Lecture 2. Values in Nature 6,7,13,14 Mar.
Lecturer: Dan Perry
Readings : Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic" EP 102-115
Paul W. Taylor, "The Ethics of Respect for Nature", EP 67-81

Lecture 3. Animal Rights, and Animal Welfare 20,21 Mar. 3,4 Apr.
Lecturer: Dan Perry
Readings : Peter Singer, "All Animals Are Equal", EP 25-38
Tom Regan, "Animal Rights, Human Wrongs", EP 39-52
Cohen C. (1986), "The Case for the Use of Animals in Biomedical Research". The New England Journal of Medicine 314 [1986], 865-869.

Lecture 4 – Environmental Ethics in Abrahamic religions 17,18 Apr.
Lecturer: Dan Perry
Readings : Lynn White, The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis. *Science* 155: 1203-120

Lecture 5. Environmental Ethics in non-Western Religions 24,25 Apr.
Lecturer: Dan Perry
Readings : J. Baird Callicott, *Earth's Insights* (U. of California Press 1994), chs. 3
Richard C. Foltz, *Worldviews, Religion, and the Environmen* (wadsworth 2003) Ch. 5

Lecture 6. Sustainability and the Economics of the Environment 1,2 May.
Lecturer: Dan Perry
Readings : Ehrlich and Ehrlich (1991) "Risk, Costs and Benefits" in Bonevac D (Ed.) *Today's Moral Issues*. Pp. 114-117.
Garrett Harding "The Tragedy of the Commons"

Lecture 7. Deep Ecology and Eco-Feminism 8 May
Lecturer: Dan Perry
Readings :
Arne Naess, "The Deep Ecological Movement: Some Philosophical Aspects", EP
Karen J Warren, "The Power and Promise of Ecofeminism, Revisited", EP 252-79

Lecture 8. Green Liberalism and Ecofascism 9 May
Lecturer: Dan Perry
Reading: Michael Zimmerman, "Ecofascism; An Enduring Temptation", EP 390-408

Lecture 9 – Social and Political Ecology Lecturer: Dan Perry Reading: Ulrich Beck, <i>Risk Society</i> , Part 1.	22,23,May
Lecture 10 – EcoAnarchism Lecturer: Dan Perry Readings : David Watson, “Against the Megamachine”, EP	29 May
Lecture 12. Case studies- Global warming and Invasive species Lecturer: Dan Perry Readings : Thomas Easton <i>Taking sides: Clashing views on Environmental issues</i> , Issue 8 pp.136-165. Perry Dan and G. Perry (2008). Animal Rights and Conservation, <i>Conservation biology</i> 22:4, pp. 816-818.	30 May. 5 June
Lecture 13. Summary lesson Lecturer: Dan Perry	6 June
Final Exam	11 June