

**Environmental Ethics**

MW 12:00 - 1:50, Allen 216

Instructor: Dr. Ted Toadvine  
 Office Hours: MW 9:00 - 11:00 and by appointment, PLC 319  
 Phone: 346-5554 (office); 346-5547 (Philosophy Office Manager)  
 Email: toadvine@darkwing.uoregon.edu

REQUIRED TEXTS

Holmes Rolston, *Environmental Ethics: Duties to and Values in the Natural World* (Temple, 1988).  
 Arne Naess, *Ecology, Community and Lifestyle* (Cambridge University Press, 1989)  
 Carolyn Merchant, *Earthcare: Women and the Environment* (Routledge, 1995)  
 Gary Varner, *In Nature's Interests? Interests, Animal Rights, and Environmental Ethics* (Oxford, 1998)

Other useful resources: The International Society for Environmental Ethics online bibliography at <http://www.phil.unt.edu/bib/index.htm>

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our course will comprise a detailed examination of four recent and influential positions in environmental ethics. Beginning with Holmes Rolston's argument, in *Environmental Ethics*, that the natural world carries intrinsic value, we will explore his attempts to extend human duties to species, ecosystems, and natural processes. Turning then to Arne Naess's *Ecology, Community and Lifestyle*, we will discuss the basic platform of Deep Ecology and Naess's exhortations to develop a personal "ecosophy" that incorporates deep ecological principles. We will consider Carolyn Merchant's interpretation, in *Earthcare*, of the historical relationship of humanity with nature, the parallels she draws between the treatment of nature and women, and the "partnership ethics" that she proposes. Concluding with Gary Varner's *In Nature's Interests?*, we will weigh his contention that an ethic prioritizing sentience and human interests can be a suitable basis for environmental practice.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

	<u>Undergraduate</u>	<u>Graduate</u>
1. average of best 5 weekly response papers, 2 pages each	20 %	20%
2. two short essays (5-7 pages)	80 %	
3. final term paper (10-12 pages)		80%

- **Weekly Response Papers:** Response papers are short (about 2 pages), informal reactions to material assigned for a particular class session. These papers may develop questions about the assigned readings, explore implications, draw comparisons with other works from within or outside the class, etc. Papers will be graded on the basis of the depth and originality of your thoughtful engagement with the assigned material. You have the opportunity to turn in one response paper per week, on either Monday or Wednesday (but not both in the same week). Papers must discuss the material assigned for the class period on which they are submitted—late response papers will not be graded. Your best 5 response paper grades will be averaged in calculating your final grade (and you may choose to turn in the minimum of 5). For undergraduates, response papers will be graded by your assigned GTF.
- **Short essays:** Undergraduate students will complete two short essays for the course, one due on the Wednesday of week five, and the second on the last day of class. These essays should be 5-7 pages long and address topics announced in class. Essays will lose one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late. These essays will be graded by your assigned GTF.

- **Final Term Paper:** Graduate students will complete a final term paper of 10-12 pages. Final papers will explore a specific independently-chosen topic or theme from the course in detail and must include (a) examination of at least five scholarly sources in addition to course texts, and (b) the development of your own position or critical response. A brief proposal of your paper topic (including a 1-2 page description of the topic and a bibliography of texts to be consulted) must be submitted for my approval by the start of week 8. Final papers are due on the last day of class, and extensions will be granted only in the case of genuine, documented emergencies. Late papers will lose one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late.

PLEASE NOTE

- **Class Participation/Attendance:** You are expected to participate actively in this class, which includes attending class, reading all assigned material prior to class, and participating productively and professionally in class discussions. Missing THREE classes FOR ANY REASON will result in a full grade reduction. An additional full grade reduction will be made for each additional missed class after the third. Three late arrivals for class will count as one absence.
- **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated.
- **Disability Accommodations:** If you have a documented disability, please let me know as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

*(any changes will be announced in class)*

Week 1: 9/29, 10/1	Introduction to course; Rolston, Ch. 1 (1-44)
Week 2: 10/6, 10/8	Rolston, Ch. 2 & 3 (45-125); Rolston, Ch. 4 (126-159)
Week 3: 10/13, 10/15	Rolston, Ch. 5 & 6 (160-245); Rolston, Ch. 7 (246-289)
Week 4: 10/20, 10/22	Rolston, Ch. 8 & 9 (290-354); Naess, Ch. 1 & 2 (23-67)
Week 5: 10/27, 10/29	Naess, Ch. 3, 4, & 5 (68-129); Naess, Ch. 6 (130-162) SHORT ESSAY (UG) DUE, 10/29
Week 6: 11/3, 11/5	Naess, Ch. 7 (163-212); Merchant, Intro, Ch. 1 & 2 (xv-xxii, 3-56)
Week 7: 11/10, 11/12	Merchant, Ch. 3 - 6 (57-136); Merchant, Ch. 7 & 8 (139-184)
Week 8: 11/17, 11/19	Merchant, Ch. 9 & Conclusion (185-224); Varner, Intro & Ch. 1 (3-25) TERM PAPER PROPOSAL (GRAD) DUE, 11/17
Week 9: 11/24, 11/26	Varner, Chs. 2 & 3 (26-76); Varner, Chs. 4-5 (77-120)
Week 10: 12/1, 12/3	Varner, Ch. 6 & Conclusion (121-143); Concluding discussion SHORT ESSAY (UG) & TERM PAPER (GRAD) DUE, 12/3