

ENVS 345: Environmental Ethics
2:00-3:20 MW, 360 CON

Spring 2006, CRN: 38894

Instructor: Dr. Ted Toadvine
toadvine@uoregon.edu
Office: PLC 319, 346-5554
Office Hours: 12:30 - 1:30 MW

GTF: Jason Schreiner
jws@uoregon.edu
Office: 6 Pacific; tel: 6-5003
Office Hours: 3:30 - 4:30 MW

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course surveys key concepts and issues in the field of environmental ethics while developing the skills of value clarification and ethical reasoning. Topics will include the role of values and facts in environmental problem-solving, conceptual foundations for environmental ethics, attributions of intrinsic value and rights to nature and other species, and consumption and sustainability in our conceptions of the good life. The course will then turn to an extended examination of the philosophical and ethical problems of environmental restoration: does restoration provide a model for how we might rediscover an appropriate balance with the natural world, or is it instead just a continuation of the mindset of technological control and domination? We will conclude with a consideration of the relationship between philosophical thinking and environmental activism.

REQUIRED TEXTS

David Schmidz & Elizabeth Willott, eds., *Environmental Ethics: What Really Matters, What Really Works* (Oxford U. Press, 2002).

William Throop, ed., *Environmental Restoration: Ethics, Theory, and Practice* (Humanity Books, 2000).

The following items are available for download as pdf files from UO library online course reserves at http://libweb.uoregon.edu/acs_svc/reserve-index.html

- Juhani Pallasmaa, "An Architecture of the Seven Senses"
- Bruno Latour, "Crisis," Chapter 1 from *We Have Never Been Modern*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. participation & attendance	10%
2. weekly reading summaries	40%
3. midterm and final essays, 6-8 pages (25% each)	50%

◦ **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 actively and productively in class discussion. **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. Discussion is crucial to this class, and I will do my best to make you feel at ease and welcome to contribute to the conversation. The best way to understand these sometimes difficult and controversial topics is to talk about them with each other, so please feel free to contribute any question, objection, or other thought about the topic at hand when such occurs to you. Although no relevant remark is out of bounds in this class, you will be expected to treat all members of the class respectfully and professionally. The quality and quantity of your participation in the class discussion will be evaluated in assigning 10% of your final course grade. In addition to any penalties that you receive for failure to attend class, absences from class will also negatively affect your participation grade.

◦ **Weekly Reading Summaries:** Once each week, on either Monday or Wednesday, you will be expected to submit a 1-2 page (typed) summary of the day's assigned readings. The choice of which day to submit your summary is up to you, although you will be expected to submit a summary for each week of the class, and only one summary will be accepted for each week. Your summaries will be graded as either ✓+ (especially thorough and insightful summary), ✓ (solid, accurate, and complete summary), or ✓- (quality or

completeness of summary needs improvement). Numerically, these grades will be scored, respectively, as 10, 8, and 6 points out of ten possible. The average of all weekly reading summaries will count as 40% of your final grade. Reading summaries will be graded only if they are received during the class in which the readings are to be discussed. Extra or late summaries cannot be accepted in order to make up for delinquency in completing these assignments at the proper time.

◦ **Midterm and Final Essays:** Two 6-8 page essays will be required in response to assigned topics, which will be posted on Blackboard at least one week prior to the deadline for the essay. Essays will require an understanding of course discussions and assigned readings, but will not require any additional outside research. These essays are due on the dates specified on the syllabus. Essays should have standard fonts and margins and must be typed, stapled, proof-read, and double-spaced. Late essays will lose one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late. Each essay will be worth 25% of your final grade.

PLEASE NOTE

◦ **Inclement Weather:** It is generally expected that class will meet unless the University is officially closed for inclement weather. If, however, it becomes necessary to cancel class while the University remains open, this will be announced on Blackboard and through the Blackboard email system.

◦ **Academic Dishonesty:** Academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated. Please review the university policy available at <http://www.uoregon.edu/~conduct/sai.htm> for an explanation of what constitutes academic dishonesty and how it will be dealt with in this course.

◦ **Disability Accommodations:** If you have a documented disability, please inform me and the course GTF as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE (*Specific assignments to be announced in each class*)

Week 1: 4/3, 4/5	Introduction to Environmental Ethics Willcott & Schmidt (xi-xxi); Easterbrook (4-5); Leopold (6-7); White (7-14)
Week 2: 4/10, 4/12	Animal Liberation & The Land Ethic Singer (17-27); Leopold (27-32); Rolston (33-38); Sagoff (38-44)
Week 3: 4/17, 4/19	Extending the Realm of Rights Stone (46-50), Feinberg (50-58), Attfield (58-71), Midgley (71-81)
Week 4: 4/24, 4/26	Species Equality Taylor (83-95), Schmidt (96-103) 4/26: Guest Lecture: Christine Garcia , Founder and Lead Counsel of The Animal Law Office, “Animal Liberation through the Law and Activists Guide to Action”
Week 5: 5/1, 5/3	Midterm Essay Due, 5/3 Consumption and Lifestyle: Rethinking the Good Life Hill (189-99), Milbrath (199-205), Sagoff (205-221), Mathews (221-230)
Week 6: 5/8, 5/10	Regis (434-43), Ehrlich & Ehrlich (443-53) 5/10: Guest Lecture: Brook Muller , UO Assistant Professor of Architecture, “Sustainable Dwelling” Readings for Muller: Pallasmaa (online) and Latour (online)
Week 7: 5/15, 5/17	Environmental Restoration: Faking Nature? Elliot, Katz, Light, Attfield, Rolston (ER 71-132)
Week 8: 5/22, 5/24	The Case of Oak Savanna; Restoration as the model for ethics? Mendelson et al, Packard (ER 135-167); Turner, Jordan, Kane (ER 195-236)

Week 9: {5/29}, 5/31	5/29: No Class (Memorial Day) 5/31: Guest Lecture: Jason Schreiner , MA Student in ENVS, “The Ethics of Food”
Week 10: 6/5, 6/7	Philosophical Ethics & Environmental Practice Watson (529-534), Rawles (535-46), Callicot (546-56), Light (556-66)
Wedns, 6/14	Final Essay Due by 5:00 pm in Philosophy Department (338 PLC)