PHIL 340: Environmental Philosophy

4:00-5:20 MW, 207 CHA

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CRN 33874

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an overview of major positions and topics in contemporary environmental philosophy. We will begin with a consideration of classic texts representing dominant movements in environmental thought: Deep Ecology, Ecofeminism, Social Ecology, Bioregionalism, and Eco-Phenomenology. We will then briefly explore topics of current debate in environmental philosophy, including human/animal relations, holism and individualism, our proper relationship to technology, and the ethical and political implications of radical environmental activism.

TEXTS
Michael Zimmerman et al., eds., Environmental Philosophy (Prentice Hall, 2001)
David Abram, The Spell of the Sensuous (Vintage, 1997)

ONLINE RESERVE
Mark Elam, “Anti Anticonstructivism or Laying the Fears of a Langdom Winner to Rest,” in Robert C. Scharff and Val Dusek, Philosophy of Technology: The Technological Condition (Blackwell, 2003), 612-16.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
1. participation & attendance 20%
2. two take-home essays (1500 - 2000 words, 15% each) 30%
3. midterm and final exam (25% each) 50%
Class Participation/Attendance: You are expected to participate actively in this class, which includes attending the lectures, reading all assigned material prior to class, and participating productively and professionally in your discussion section. Missing FOUR 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 your discussion leaders and I will do our 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 20% of your final course grade. Obviously, failure to attend class will negatively affect your participation grade.

Take-home essays: Two essays of 1500 - 2000 words each will be required in response to topics distributed in class. These essays are due on the dates specified on the syllabus. Essays must be typed, stapled, proof-read, double-spaced, and include a word-count on the first page. Late essays will lose one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late. Each essay will be worth 15% of the final course grade. Essays will be graded by your discussion leader.

Midterm and Final Exam: Exams will be based on material assigned as readings and topics discussed in class. The final will include only material covered after the midterm. Each exam will be worth 25% of the final course grade.

PLEASE NOTE

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 let me know as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE  (Specific assignments will be announced at the start of each class).

| Week 1: 3/29, 3/31 | Introduction to course  
| Calicott, “Introduction” (EP)  
| Sylvan, “Is There a Need for a New, an Environmental, Ethic?” (EP)  
| Leopold, “The Land Ethic” (EP) |
| Week 2: 4/5, 4/7 | DEEP ECOLOGY  
| Sessions, “Introduction to Deep Ecology” (EP)  
| Naess, “The Shallow and the Deep, Long-Range Ecology Movement” (online)  
| Sessions, “Ecocentrism, Wilderness, and Global Ecosystem Protection” (EP) |
| Week 3: 4/12, 4/14 | ECOFEMINISM  
| Warren, “Introduction to Ecofeminism” (EP)  
| Merchant, “The Death of Nature” (EP)  
| Shiva, “The Impoverishment of the Environment: Women and Children Last” (EP)  
| Curtin, “Recognizing Women’s Environmental Expertise” (EP) |
| Week 4: 4/19, 4/21 | First Take-Home Essay Due: 4/19  
| SOCIAL ECOLOGY AND BIOREGIONALISM  
| Bookchin, “What is Social Ecology?” (EP)  
| Snyder, “The Place, the Region, and the Commons” (EP)  
| Dodge, “Living by Life: Some Bioregional Theory and Practice” (online)  
| Sale, “Dwellers in the Land” (online) |
| Week 5: 4/26, 4/28 | **Midterm Exam, 4/26**  
**ECO-PHENOMENOLOGY**  
Abram, *The Spell of the Sensuous*, Chapters 2 & 3 (31-92) |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
**HUMAN/ANIMAL RELATIONS**  
Singer, “All Animals are Equal” (EP)  
Regan, “Animal Rights, Human Wrongs” (EP) |
| Week 7: 5/10, 5/12 | **Adams, “Ecofeminism and the Eating of Animals”** (online)  
Steeves, “They Say Animals Can Smell Fear” (online)  
Wolfe, “In the Shadow of Wittgenstein’s Lion” (*Zoontologies*, 1-57) |
| Week 8: 5/17, 5/19 | **Second Take-Home Essay Due: 5/17**  
**HOLISM AND ITS DISCONTENTS**  
Naess, “Ecosophy and Gestalt Ontology” (online)  
Callicot, “Holistic Environmental Ethics and the Problem of Ecofascism” (EP)  
Marietta, “Environmental Holism and the Individual” (online)  
Worster, “The Ecology of Order and Chaos” (online) |
| Week 9: 5/24, 5/26 | **TECHNOLOGY**  
Jonas, “Toward a Philosophy of Technology” (online)  
Glendinning, “Notes toward a Neo-Luddite Manifesto” (online)  
Winner, “Luddism as Epistemology” (online)  
Elam, “Anti Anticonstructivism or Laying the Fears of a Langdom Winner to Rest” (online)  
Haraway, “A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the Late 20th Century” |
| Week 10: 6/2 | **RADICAL ECOACTIVISM**  
Foreman, “Earth First!”, “Strategic Monkeywrenching” (online)  
Selections on the Middle Santiam Protest and the “Redwood Summer” Action (online)  
Hargrove, “Ecological Sabotage: Pranks or Terrorism?” with replies (online) |
|                   | **Final Exam**                                                 |