

PHIL 340: Environmental Philosophy
4:00-5:20 MW, 207 CHA

Winter 2006, CRN: 25098

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Sections: 9-9:50, 353 PLC
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1-1:50, 353 PLC

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, and bioregionalism. We will then briefly explore topics of current debate in environmental philosophy, including conflicts between social and environmental issues, environmental justice, the economic and political underpinnings of our environmental problems, our proper relationship to modern technology, and the ethical and political implications of radical environmental activism.

REQUIRED READINGS

All items available for download as pdf files from UO library online course reserves at http://libweb.uoregon.edu/acs_svc/reserve-index.html (username=winter06, password=hail)

Terry Anderson & Donald Leal, "Free Market Environmentalism Today"
Robin Attfield, "Saving Nature, Feeding People, and Ethics"
Murray Bookchin, "What is Social Ecology?"
Albert Borgmann, "Information and Reality at the Turn of the Century"
Robert Bullard, "Justice and Environmental Decision Making"
Deane Curtin, "Recognizing Women's Environmental Expertise"
"Ecological Resistance from Around the World," from *Green Anarchy*
Dave Foreman, "Earth First!" and "Strategic Monkeywrenching"
Greta Gaard and Lori Gruen, "Ecofeminism: Toward Global Justice and Planetary Health"
Eugene Hargrove, "Ecological Sabotage: Pranks or Terrorism?"
Paul Hawken, "A Declaration of Sustainability"
Joanne Jordan & Nigel Gilbert, "Think Local, Act Global: Discourses of Environment and Local Protest"
Carolyn Merchant, "Green Politics"
Lewis Mumford, "Tool-Users vs. Homo Sapiens and the Megamachine"
Arne Naess, "The Shallow and the Deep, Long-Range Ecology Movement"
Arne Naess, "The Deep Ecology Movement: Some Philosophical Aspects"
Arne Naess, "From Ecology to Ecosophy"
Bryan Norton & Bruce Hannon, "Democracy and Sense of Place Values in Environmental Policy"
James O'Connor, "Socialism and Ecology"
Catherine Roach, "Loving your Mother: On the Woman-Nature Relation"
Holmes Rolston, III, "Feeding People vs. Saving Nature?"
Mark Sagoff, "At the Monument to General Meade, or on the Difference Between Beliefs and Benefits"
Gary Snyder, "The Place, the Region, and the Commons"
David Watson, "Against the Megamachine: Empire and the Earth"
Peter Wenz, "Just Garbage"

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. participation & attendance	15%
2. reading quizzes (best five)	10%
2. two take-home essays (4-6 pages, 15% and 20%)	35%
3. midterm and final exam (20% each)	40%

◦ **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 actively and productively in your discussion section. **Missing FOUR classes, either discussion sections or lectures, 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 15% 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.

◦ **Reading Quizzes:** On a number of occasions throughout the term, brief quizzes will be given either at the beginning or end of the course lecture. These quizzes will be unannounced and will cover the assigned reading or material covered in the previous lecture. The best way to prepare for these quizzes is to read all assigned materials carefully and review notes from the previous lecture before arriving for class. Since some quizzes may be “open text,” you are encouraged to bring copies of the assigned readings to class. Only the best five quiz grades will be counted in calculating your final grade; the lowest quiz grades will be dropped. **No makeup quizzes will be given for any reason.** If a quiz is missed due to absence, late arrival, or early departure, this missed quiz will be treated as one of the grades to be dropped.

◦ **Take-home essays:** Two 4-6 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. 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. Include your name, the name of your GTF, and the time that your discussion section meets on the first page. Late essays will lose one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late. The first essay will be worth 15% of your final grade; the second essay will be worth 20%.

◦ **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 20% of the final course grade. A review sheet to guide your study will be posted on Blackboard prior to the exam.

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 GTF directing your discussion section 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: 1/9, 1/11	Introduction to course DEEP ECOLOGY Naess, “The Shallow and the Deep, Long-Range Ecology Movement” Naess, “The Deep Ecology Movement: Some Philosophical Aspects”
Week 2: 1/16, 1/18	[No Class on Monday, 1/16: Martin Luther King Jr.’s Birthday] Naess, “From Ecology to Ecosophy”
Week 3: 1/23, 1/25	ECOFEMINISM Roach, “Loving your Mother: On the Woman-Nature Relation” Curtin, “Recognizing Women’s Environmental Expertise” Gaard and Gruen, “Ecofeminism: Toward Global Justice and Planetary Health”
Week 4: 1/30, 2/1	First Take-Home Essay Due: 1/30 SOCIAL ECOLOGY & BIOREGIONALISM Bookchin, “What is Social Ecology?” Snyder, “The Place, the Region, and the Commons” Jordan & Gilbert, “Think Local, Act Global: Discourses of Environment and Local Protest” Norton & Hannon, “Democracy and Sense of Place Values in Environmental Policy”
Week 5: 2/6, 2/8	Midterm Exam, 2/6 SOCIAL ISSUES & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Rolston, “Feeding People vs. Saving Nature?” Attfield, Saving Nature, Feeding People, and Ethics”
Week 6: 2/13, 2/15	Bullard, “Justice and Environmental Decision Making” Wenz, “Just Garbage” ECONOMICS & POLITICAL ECOLOGY Anderson & Leal, “Free Market Environmentalism Today” Sagoff, “At the Monument to General Meade, or on the Difference Between Beliefs and Benefits”
Week 7: 2/20, 2/22	Hawken, “A Declaration of Sustainability” O’Connor, “Socialism and Ecology” TECHNOLOGY Mumford, “Tool-Users vs. Homo Sapiens and the Megamachine”
Week 8: 2/27, 3/1	Second Take-Home Essay Due: 2/27 Borgmann, “Information and Reality at the Turn of the Century” Watson, “Against the Megamachine: Empire and the Earth”
Week 9: 3/6, 3/8	ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISM Presentation by UO Environmental Leadership Program Merchant, “Green Politics” FILM – TREE-SIT: The Art of Resistance (Earth Films)
Week 10: 3/13, 3/15	Guest Speaker: ‘Cricket’ on Environmental Activism Foreman, “Earth First!”, “Strategic Monkeywrenching” “Ecological Resistance from Around the World” (<i>Green Anarchy</i> 21: 32-35). Hargrove, “Ecological Sabotage: Pranks or Terrorism?” with replies
Wedn, 3/22	Final Exam, 3:15 - 5:15