

FC-016 – Environmental Ethics

Monsoon 2019, AC02 LT109, Tuesdays/Thursdays 8:30 – 10:00

Professor: Danny Weltman | danny.weltman@ashoka.edu.in

Office Hours: Wednesday 10 to 12 in AC02 320 and by appointment

Teaching Fellows: Reetika Kalita and Abbas Bagwala

About This Course: Topic and Goals

In this course, we will be investigating ethical issues related to the environment. We will start by learning about different ethical approaches we might use to solve environmental ethics questions and about our ethical duties to non-humans. Later the course will focus on topics that you have voted for.

Below are the **goals** for this course. This course is designed to help you learn the following:

- A general overview of many important theories of environmental ethics
- More detailed knowledge of a number of particular topics in environmental ethics
- How to read, evaluate, and express your thoughts about ethical arguments
- Basic philosophical reading and writing skills, with a focus on arguments

Course Content

The first six weeks focus on core theories of environmental ethics and on our duties to non-humans. After that, the topics will depend on what the class votes for. All readings are available on the course web site at <https://canvas.instructure.com/courses/1645705>. You should do the assigned reading for each class meeting before that class meeting. **Please bring the readings to class each day**, either printed out or in *easily accessible* electronic form.

Assignments and Grading

There are 5 kinds of assignments in this class: **reading quizzes, lecture participation, discussion section participation, four sentence papers, and 500 word papers**. Grading rubrics and sample assignments are available on Canvas.

Reading Quizzes (10% of your grade) are to help you focus on the important parts of the reading and to get instant feedback on whether you have understood the reading. They are due midnight the night before we meet in class to discuss the particular reading in question. Late quizzes will not be accepted. Your lowest six reading quiz scores will be ignored.

Lecture Participation (20% of your grade) involves answering in-class lecture questions via classquestion.com. These questions are graded on participation only, not on correctness. As long as you answer the questions, you will get full credit. Our class code is NQDNQ.

Discussion Section Participation (20% of your grade) consists of three key aspects: attendance in discussion sections, submission of good discussion questions, and respectful, involved engagement in discussion section.

You will lose 10% of your discussion section participation grade for each absence above four. Your first four absences are excused.

Discussion questions are due 11:59 PM the day before your discussion section meets. They should be posted to the Canvas discussion board for your section. You will lose 10% of your discussion section participation grade for each missing discussion question above four. Your first four missing questions are excused.

Respectful, involved engagement in discussion section means that you listen when your peers and your teaching fellow speak, and you offer your own helpful contributions sometimes. A good target to aim for is making at least one helpful contribution per discussion section meeting. Using mobile phones or computers for non-academic purposes, browsing the Internet, coming in late, not showing up, or otherwise ignoring people is not respectful, involved engagement and will reduce your participation grade.

Four Sentence Papers (15% of your grade) are the first way you will practice your philosophical writing skills. There are four of these papers due.

500 Word papers (35% of your grade) are short papers on a topic from the text we are reading. They summarize a point from the text, then offer a question, an extension, or a critique. There are four 500 word papers due. The lowest scoring paper will be ignored. Late papers will lose one point for each day late, unless some emergency has delayed submission, in which case the late penalty may be waived. Computer issues are not an emergency.

Grade Breakdown:

10% - Reading Quizzes (26, lowest 6 ignored)
20% - Lecture Participation
20% - Discussion Section Participation
15% - Four Sentence Papers (4)
35% - 500 Word Papers (4, lowest 1 ignored)

Class Grade Rubric:

100-97% = A+	<80-77% = C+
<97-94% = A	<77-74% = C
<94-90% = A-	<74-70% = C-
<90-87% = B+	<70-67% = D+
<87-84% = B	<67-64% = D
<84-80% = B-	<64-60% = D-
	<60-0% = F

Disabilities

If you have disabilities which require some form of accommodation, please contact me ahead of time.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Any time you use **words, phrases, ideas, or anything else** in your writing that you did not think up on your own, you must **cite** your source the best of your ability. Words and phrases from others must be enclosed in quotation marks to show that you did not write them yourself. Failure to cite a source is **plagiarism** and it's not okay. Plagiarism may result in a zero on the assignment or in other point reductions. You should not need to use (or cite) outside sources for this class, but if you do use them, you must cite them. It is perfectly okay to use points made by your classmates in class or on the discussion boards, *as long as you cite them to the best of your ability*. The one exception is that you do not need to cite me on your writing assignments in this class.

Resources

My website has resources on reading, writing, and researching at danielweltman.com/resources.html. These resources include a glossary for unfamiliar words or phrases and the rubric that I use for grading your writing assignments. I encourage you to examine these resources.

Topic, Reading, and Assignment Schedule

All readings are available on Canvas.

Weeks 1-5: Introduction to Environmental Ethical Theories

August 27

Introduction Lecture: Environmental Ethics, Class Structure, and How to Read Philosophy (no reading)

August 29

Kernohan, chapter 1

Quiz due August 28, 11:59 PM

September 3

Kernohan, chapter 13

Quiz due September 2, 11:59 PM

September 5

Taylor, "Biocentric Egalitarianism"

Quiz due September 4, 11:59 PM

September 10

Kernohan, chapter 14

Quiz due September 9, 11:59 PM

September 12

Leopold, "The Land Ethic" in Boylan

Quiz due September 11, 11:59 PM

First four sentence paper, on biocentric or ecocentric ethics, due September 22, 11:59 PM

September 17

Kernohan, chapter 15

Quiz due September 16, 11:59 PM

September 19

Merchant, "Ecofeminism and Feminist Theory" and Warren, "The Power and Promise of Ecological Feminism" in Boylan

Quiz due September 18, 11:59 PM

Reminder: First four sentence paper due September 22, 11:59 PM

September 24

Kernohan, chapter 16

Quiz due September 23, 11:59 PM

September 26

Naess, "The Shallow and the Deep, Long-Range Ecological Movement" and "Ecosophy T: Deep Versus Shallow Ecology" and Devall and Sessions, "Deep Ecology"

Quiz due September 25, 11:59 PM

Second four sentence paper, on ecofeminism or deep ecology, due October 6, 11:59 PM

October 1

Singer, "All Animals Are Equal"

Quiz due September 30, 11:59 PM

October 3

Regan, "The Radical Egalitarian Case for Animal Rights"

Quiz due October 2, 11:59 PM

Third four sentence paper, on animal ethics, due October 15, 11:59 PM.

Reminder: second four sentence paper, on ecofeminism or deep ecology, due October 6, 11:59 PM

October 8 and 10: Mid-term Break

October 15

Framarin, "The value of nature in Indian (Hindu) traditions"

Quiz due October 14, 11:59 PM

Reminder: third four sentence paper, on animal ethics, due October 15, 11:59 PM.

October 17

Cane Toad Documentary

Perrett, "Instrumentalist Interpretations of Hindu Environmental Ethics"

Quiz due October 16, 11:59 PM

Fourth four sentence paper, on Hindu environmental ethics, due October 22, 11:59 PM.

October 22 Guest Lecturer: Professor Rosenhagen

Norcross, "Puppies, Pigs, and People"

Narain, "Why I would not advocate vegetarianism"

Quiz due October 21, 11:59 PM

Reminder: fourth four sentence paper, on Hindu environmental ethics, due today, October 22, 11:59 PM.

October 24

Belshaw, "Meat"

Quiz due October 23, 11:59 PM

October 29

Callicott, "The Environmental Omnivore's Dilemma"

Quiz due October 28, 11:59 PM

First 500 word paper, on food ethics, due November 7, 11:59 PM

October 31

Rolston, "Justifying Sustainable Development," skip section 3 about America

Pandey, "Only science can help the world achieve sustainable development: UN Report"

Quiz due October 30, 11:59 PM

November 5

Norton, "Sustainability, Human Welfare, and Ecosystem Health"

Agarwal and Narain, "Towards green villages – a strategy for environmentally sound and participatory rural development in India"

Mahapatra, "8 years and Rs 228 crore later, Maharashtra fails to make even one village sustainable"

Quiz due November 4, 11:59 PM

Second 500 word paper, on sustainability, due November 21, 11:59 PM

November 7

Lister, "Climate Change Refugees"

Quiz due November 6, 11:59 PM

Reminder: First 500 word paper, on food ethics, due November 7, 11:59 PM

November 12

Risse, "The Right to Relocation"

Quiz due November 11, 11:59 PM

November 14

Reid, "Climate, migration, and sex: the biopolitics of climate-induced migration"

Quiz due November 13, 11:59 PM

November 19

Nine, "Ecological Refugees, State Borders, and the Lockean Proviso"

Quiz due November 18, 11:59 PM

November 21

Kolers, "Floating provisos and sinking islands"

Quiz due November 20, 11:59 PM

Reminder: second 500 word paper, on sustainability, due November 21, 11:59 PM

November 26

Caney, "Cosmopolitan Justice, Rights, and Global Climate Change"

Quiz due November 25, 11:59 PM

November 28

Banks, "Individual Responsibility for Climate Change"

Greenhouse Development Rights Framework Executive Summary

Quiz due November 27, 11:59 PM

Third 500 word paper, on climate refugees, due December 4, 11:59 PM

Fourth 500 word paper, on climate change, due December 13, 11:59 PM