

Environmental Ethics (PHI 192)

Carroll University - Spring 2016

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2 – 3:50pm in Lowry 103

Instructor: Michael Zenz

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Office: 101 Philosophy/Religious Studies House

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4-5pm

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Course Description

In this course we will exam the ethical relationship between humans and the environment, as well as the value of the environment. The environment can be thought to have two primary forms of value: instrumental and intrinsic. According to the instrumental view of the environment's value, it is only valuable in so far as it can be of use to humans. Notably, this is the view that dominates the relationship of modern capitalist societies (including our own) toward the environment. However, others argue that the environment (including animals, plants, and the land) has value in and of itself, regardless of the value that humans can derive from it. After examining these two perspectives on the environment's value, we will examine several specific ethical issues involving the environment: the moral status of non-human animals, our obligations to conserve resources, and our obligations to combat global warming.

Requirements

25% - Biweekly Discussion Writing Approximately 300 word **typed** responses to biweekly discussion questions posted on the class eLearning page. Responses must be handed in at the start of class (no exceptions). The lowest score will be dropped.

10% - Attendance and Participation

20% - Midterm Exam Taken in class on *March 3rd*.

20% - Paper Topics and detailed instructions will be distributed in February. *Due April 14th*.

25% - Final Exam Online. Cumulative. Due date TBA.

Required Text

We will be using the following text available at the Carroll Bookstore (and all fine booksellers); all other readings will be posted on eLearning:

Donald VanDeVeer and Christine Pierce. *The Environmental Ethics and Policy Book*, Third Edition. Wadsworth, 2003. ISBN: 9780-534561888.

Late Work

All late work will be marked down $\frac{1}{3}$ a letter grade for each day late.

Students with Disabilities

Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, or any student considering obtaining documentation should make an appointment with Ms. Martha Bledsoe, Director of Services for Students with Disabilities, no later than the first week of class. She can be reached by calling 262-524-7335 or contacting her via email at mbledsoe@carrollu.edu.

Absences

Students are expected to inform the instructor in advance of medically necessary absences, and present a self-signed note documenting the date of the missed class(es) and testifying to the need for the absence. **Prolonged absence or illness** preventing attendance from class requires written documentation from a health care provider verifying dates of treatment when student was unable to meet academic responsibilities. **Absence due to religious observance** will not be penalized, however, it is the students responsibility to notify the instructor within the first 3 weeks of class regarding any religious observance absence(s) for the entire semester.

Severe Weather

Carroll University has a general policy of rarely closing due to bad weather. However, in the age of the internet I am not very enthusiastic about having class in the middle of a snow storm. Therefore, if there is severe weather I may cancel our in-person class and have class online. I will post a lecture, and you will be expected to answer a discussion question in place of our normal class. This will normally be the result of some sort of severe weather warning, but if I am canceling I will notify everyone via email and the eLearning website the morning of class.

Academic Integrity

The Carroll University Academic Integrity Policy is located in your [student handbook](#). I encourage you to familiarize yourself with it. If a student violates this policy in any way, I reserve the right to impose a sanction of failure on the assignment/assessment or failure in the course. If you have questions about appropriate citations, please ask.

Right to Modify Course Content

The instructor and the University reserve the right to modify, amend, or change the syllabus (course requirements, grading policy, etc.) as the curriculum and/or program require(s).

Tentative Schedule

All readings are from VanDeVeer and Pierce textbook, unless otherwise indicated. They should be read **before** the class for which they are listed.

| Class Date | Topic | Reading |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 1/19 | Introductions | |
| 1/21 | Ethical argumentation | 1 (pp. 1 – 15) |
| 1/26 | Introduction to ethical theories | 2.1–2.3 (pp. 16 – 24) |
| 1/28 | Introduction to ethical theories | 2.4–2.9 (pp. 24 – 42) |
| 2/2 | Judeo-Christian views of the environment | 3 & 7 (pp. 43 – 52, 66 –71) |
| 2/4 | Leopold’s “Land Ethic” | 25 (pp. 215 – 224) |
| 2/9 | Interpretations of the “Land Ethic” | 26 (pp. 224 – 238) |
| 2/11 | Deep Ecology | 30 & 31 (pp. 263 – 273) |
| 2/16 | Deep Ecology | 32 (pp. 273 – 277) |
| 2/18 | Biodiversity | 63 & 64 (pp. 451– 465) |
| 2/23 | What is a species? | 65 (pp. 465 – 469) |
| 2/25 | Why are species valuable? | 66 (pp. 469 – 476) |
| 3/1 | Review | |
| 3/3 | Midterm Exam | |
| 3/8 | Spring Break | |
| 3/10 | Spring Break | |
| 3/15 | Animal Rights | 15 (pp. 135 – 142) |
| 3/17 | Animal Rights | eLearning |
| 3/22 | Animals Rights | 17 (pp. 150 – 163) |
| 3/24 | Economic view | 39 (pp. 318 – 326) |
| 3/29 | Property | 49 (pp. 374 – 377) |
| 3/31 | Tragedy of the Commons | 47 (pp. 364 – 373) |
| 4/5 | Resources | 53 & 54 (pp. 397 – 402) |
| 4/7 | Resources | 56 (pp. 408 – 413) |
| 4/12 | Future Generations | 59 (pp. 428 – 436) |
| 4/14 | Paper Due | |
| 4/14 | Global Warming | eLearning |
| 4/19 | Global Warming | eLearning |
| 4/21 | Global Warming | eLearning |
| 4/26 | Review | |
| TBA | Final Exam, Online, Due Date TBA | |