

PHIL 148 Philosophy and the Environment

Syllabus
Spring 2016
MWF 10:00-10:50 am
Warren Lecture Hall
Room 2114

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Office: HSS 7017
Office Hours: Wed 11:00 am-1:00 pm

1. Overview

This class investigates current environmental issues through the prism of philosophy. The readings cover applied ethics, political philosophy, the philosophy of economics and the philosophy of biology. Our topics fall under four broad themes:

- 1) *Non-anthropocentric ethics*. How should we think about the moral status of animal and plant life?
- 2) *Climate change*. Do developed countries have a special obligation to pay for the costs of preventing it? What is the correct discounting rate, if any, to apply to the future costs of climate change? What are our obligations to climate refugees?
- 3) *Critiques of environmentalism*. What is the role of humanity in nature? Does the concept of wilderness exclude aboriginal peoples? Should the very concept of nature be abandoned?
- 4) *Explaining animals*. What principles of interpretation should govern our investigations of other species' abilities? And how should we conceive the notion of species itself?

2. Assessment

A 1,500-word essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday April 19 (25%)

A 2,000-word essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday May 17 (30%)

Final exam (30%)

Class participation (15%)

3. Readings and Schedule

All readings are contained in the course reader, available for sale at Cal Copy, located at 3251 Holiday Court, Unit # 103. Cal Copy is located behind the Mobil gas station directly south of campus between Villa La Jolla Dr. & Villa Norte. A copy of the class reader will also be on reserve at the library.

1. Week of March 28: Non-anthropocentric Ethics I: Species Membership

Peter Singer, *Animal Liberation: Second Edition*. (New York: New York Review of Books, 1990): 1-24.

Elizabeth Anderson, "Animal Rights and the Values of Nonhuman Life," in *Animal Rights: Current Debates and New Directions*. Cass Sunstein and Martha Nussbaum (eds.) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004): 277-98.

2. Week of April 4: Non-anthropocentric Ethics II: Intrinsic Value

Holmes Rolston III, "Respect for Life: Counting what Singer Finds of No Account," in *Singer and His Critics*. Dale Jamieson, ed. (Oxford: Blackwell, 1999): 247-68.

Richard Sylvan (Routley) "Is There a Need for a New, an Environmental, Ethic?" in *Environmental Philosophy: From Animal Rights to Radical Ecology*, Second Edition. Michael Zimmerman et al. (eds.) (Upper Saddle River N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1998): 17-25.

Peter Singer, *Practical Ethics: Third Edition* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011): 238-55.

3. Week of April 11: Non-anthropocentric Ethics III: Frontiers of Animal Ethics

Jeff McMahan, *The Ethics of Killing* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003): 66-86, 189-203.

Donald Bruckner, "Strict Vegetarianism is Immoral," in *The Moral Complexities of Eating Meat*. Ben Bramble and Bob Fischer (eds.) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015): 30-47.

4. Week of April 18: Climate Change I: Moral Responsibility

Peter Singer, *Practical Ethics: Third Edition* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011): 216-38.

Stephen Gardiner, "A Perfect Moral Storm: Climate Change,

Intergenerational Ethics and the Problem of Moral Corruption.”
Environmental Values 15 (2006): 397-413.

Tuesday April 19: First Essay Due 5:00 pm

5. Week of April 25: Climate Change II: Discounting

William Nordhaus. *A Question of Balance: Weighing the Options on Global Warming Policies* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2008) Extracts from Chapter Nine.

John Broome. *Counting the Cost of Global Warming* (Cambridge: White Horse Press, 1992). Extracts from Chapters Two and Three.

6. Week of May 2: Climate Change III: Refugees

Avner de Shalit, “Climate Change Refugees, Compensation and Rectification,” *The Monist* 94 (2011): 310-28.

Cara Nine, “Ecological Refugees, States Borders, and the Lockean Proviso,” *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 27 (2010): 359-375.

7. Week of May 9: Critiques of Environmentalism I: Humans in Nature

William Cronon, “The Trouble with Wilderness,” *Environmental History* 1 (1996): 7-28.

Stephen Pyne, “Aboriginal Fire: Controlling the Spark,” *Fire: A Brief History* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2001), 46-64.

Mark Dowie, “Conservation Refugees,” *Orion* 24 (2005): 16-27.

Ramachandra Guha, “Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique,” *Environmental Ethics* 11 (1989): 71-83.

8. Week of May 16: Critiques of Environmentalism II: The End of Nature

Steward Pickett and Mary Cadenasso, “The Ecosystem as a Multidimensional Concept: Meaning, Model and Metaphor,” *Ecosystems* 5 (2002): 1-10.

Steven Vogel, “Chapter One: Against Nature,” *Thinking Like A Mall:*

Environmental Philosophy After the End of Nature (Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2015): 1-32.

Steven Vogel, "Chapter Five: Thinking Like a Mall," *Thinking Like A Mall: Environmental Philosophy After the End of Nature* (Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 2015): 129-66.

Tuesday May 17: Second Essay Due 5:00 pm

9. Week of May 23: Explaining Animals I: The Species Problem

Richard Richards, *The Species Problem: A Philosophical Analysis* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010): 1-16.

Kevin De Queiroz. "Species Concepts and Species Delimitation." *Systematic Biology* 56 (2007): 879-886.

Philip Kitcher, "Species," *Philosophy of Science* (1984): 308-333.

10. Week of May 30: Explaining Animals II: Morgan's Canon (No Monday lecture)

Lloyd Morgan, *An Introduction to Comparative Psychology* (London: Walter Scott, 1894), 53-54.

Simon Fitzpatrick, "Doing Away with Morgan's Canon," *Mind & Language* 23 (2008): 224-246.

Week of June 6 Final exam: See Schedule Online

4. General Information

A. Office Hours

I keep both normal and electronic office hours. You are welcome to drop by in person or contact me via Skype (ID: andy_lamey). I am also available by appointment. I am always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

B. Email Policy

I will be happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply

to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

- i) Requests for information about the exam that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the exam.
- ii) Requests to adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter.

C. One-time Discretionary Essay Extension

I am happy to grant each student one essay extension of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension I need to receive your request before noon on the day the essay in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be returned a few days after those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to only one discretionary essay extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

D. Late Work

For all assignments handed in after the due date without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a subsequent penalty of two percent per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your instructor. Assignments that are handed in late and without extension will be returned after those completed on time and will not receive comments.

E. Accommodation for Disability

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD

Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone), osd@ucsd.edu (email), disabilities.ucsd.edu (web)

F. Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at <http://senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/appendix2.pdf>.

G. Technology in the Classroom

Until further notice, laptops and tablets are not permitted in class.

H. Waitlist

Students will be admitted to this class according to their place on the waitlist.

I. The Exam

All students except those registered with the OSD are required to take the exam on the day and time scheduled during finals week.