



DEEP ECOLOGY

# The Rights of Nature

LA 4/543 • Land & Landscape • Environmental Ethics  
 Jerome Diethelm, Prof. Emeritus • Winter 2005 • Finale

Roderick Frazier Nash

Essays by  
 Aldo Leopold



# The Rights of Nature?

*Land and Landscape* explores foundation concepts in planning and design theory and practice. The intent of this seminar class is to add breadth and depth to the understanding of such ideas as land, landscape, nature, environment, place, value, experience and art through reading and discussion. The underlying premise is that the way people possess such complex ideas significantly influences their conception of landscape architecture, their contributions to environmental planning and design, and the many decisions over the course of a lifetime they will make as environmental citizens.

The focus this year is on the concepts and evolution of environmental ethics. There are two required texts.

1. Roderick Nash's : *The Rights of Nature* , provides an historical overview of the transformation from conservation to ecological thinking.
2. *Environmental Ethics: An Introduction to Environmental Philosophy*, 3rd Ed., by Joseph R. Des Jardins builds a philosophical bridge between concepts of environment, ethics and the evolution of a land ethic.

These texts are supplemented by a collection of related books on reserve in the AAA library and a class reader and e-reader of selected (classic and important) articles from the literature of the field.

We'll survey the field, compare the field to present times, and discuss such basic questions as:  
What are ethics? An ethic? Moral expansionism? A land ethic?  
Does nature have rights? Do animals? insects? viruses? rocks?  
Is a rights approach to environmental ethics the best approach? What are its benefits, drawbacks?  
What is environmental justice? What is environmental justice today?

## NON SEQUITUR



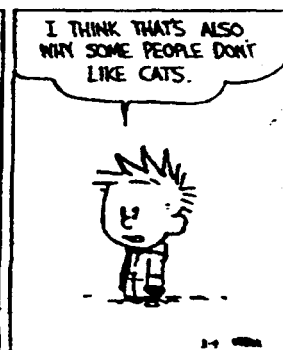
# LAND & LANDSCAPE READING

Winter 2005

## CALVIN & HOBBS



NATURE DOESN'T CARE IF PEOPLE LIVE OR DIE. IT REFUSES TO BE TAMED. IT DOES WHATEVER IT WANTS AND ACTS LIKE PEOPLE DON'T MATTER. IT WON'T CONFIRM OUR RIGHT TO BE HERE.



Environmental Ethics:

“The Rights of Nature”

# Class Schedule

## Reading & Class Assignments

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### Week 1

### Group 1

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**Class # 1**

Tues. Jan. 4:

Intro. to L&L: course format;  
shared mode of operation; assignments; class tone; the texts;  
“the reader”; course concepts and questions;  
your questions and aspirations.

**Class # 2**

Thurs. Jan. 6:

Read: 1. “Prologue: Ethical Extension  
and Radical Environmentalism,”(pp. 3-12, Nash)  
Read: 1. “From Natural Rights to the Rights of Nature,”  
(Chapter 1, Nash); (text)

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### Week 2 -

### Groups 2 & 3

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**Class # 3**

Tues. Jan. 11:

Read: 1. “Earth Ethics: A Challenge to Liberal Education”  
Holmes Rolston III (reader)  
Read: 2 “Introduction: Ethics and Environmental Ethics, Andrew  
Light and Holmes Rolston III ed.” in Environmental Ethics: An  
Anthology. Blackwell Publishing, 2003.  
(reader)

**Class # 4**

Thurs. Jan. 13 :

Read: 1. “What is Environmental Ethics?” pp. 13-18; and  
“Ethical Theory and the Environment,” (Natural Law,  
Deontology and Utilitarianism, pp. 19 - 38. Joseph R.Des  
Jardins). (text)  
Read: 2. “Four Land Ethics: An Overview,” Kristin Shrader-  
Frechette (reader)

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## Week 3

## Groups 4 & 5

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**Class # 5**      Tues. Jan. 18:      Read: 1. "Ideological Origins of American Environmentalism," (Chapter 2, Nash). (text)  
Read: 2. "The Last Endangered Species," Stephen Fox, (reader)

**Class # 6**      Thurs. Jan. 20:      Read: 1. "Ecology Widens the Circle," (Chapter 3, Nash); (text)  
Read: 2. "Ecology and Man: A Viewpoint," Paul Shepard  
Read: 3. "An Ecological Method for Landscape Architecture," Ian L. McHarg (reader)

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## Week 4

## Groups 6 & 1

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**Class # 7**      Tues. Jan. 25:      Read: 1. "Intro.: The River of the Mother of God and other essays," "A Biotic View of Land," "What is a Weed?" Aldo Leopold; (reader)  
Read: 2. "Surface Waters and Underground Seas," "Realms of the Soil," and "Green Earth's Mantle," Rachel Carson (reader)

**Class # 8**      Thurs. Jan. 27:      Read: 1. "The Land Ethic," Aldo Leopold;  
Read: 2. "Thinking Like a Mountain," Aldo Leopold (reader)

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## Week 5

## Groups 2 & 3

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**Class # 9**      Tues. Feb. 1      Read: 1. "Chapter 9: The Land Ethic," Joseph R. Des Jardins; (text)  
Read: 2. Other responses to the Land Ethic such as J. Baird Callicott's, In Defense of the Land Ethic (on reserve)

MID-TERM Bring one or two slides to discuss.

**Class #10**      Thurs. Feb. 3:      Read: 1 "Value in Nature and the Nature of Value" Holms Rolston III in Environmental Ethics: An Anthology (reader)

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**Week 6****Groups 4 & 5**

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**Class #11**      Tues. Feb. 8:      Read: 1. "Ethical Issues In Agriculture," William Aiken in Earthbound (reader)

**Class #12**      Thurs. Feb. 10:      Read: 1. "The Greening of Religion," (Chapter 4, Nash); (text)  
Read: 2. "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis," Lynn White, Jr. (reader)

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**Week 7****Groups 6 & 1**

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**Class #13**      Tues. Feb. 15:      Read: 1. "The Greening of Philosophy," (Chapter 5, Nash);  
Read: 2. (Selections from the reserve shelf)

**Class #14**      Thurs. Feb. 17:      Read: 1. "Chapter 3: The Dominant Modern Worldview and its Critics," Bill Devall & George Sessions in Deep Ecology  
Read: 2. "Chapter 4: the Reformist Response," Bill Devall & George Sessions in Deep Ecology  
Read: 3. "Chapter 5: Deep Ecology," Bill Devall & George Sessions (reader)

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**Week 8****Groups 2 & 3**

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**Class #15**      Tues. Feb. 22:      Read: 1. "Introduction to The Deep Ecology Movement, Alan Drengson and Yuichi Inoui; "The Shallow and the Deep, Long-Range Ecology Movement: A Summary," Arne Naess; "Self-Realization: An Ecological Approach to Being in the World," Arne Naess (reader)  
Read: 2. "Liberating Nature," (Chapter 6, Nash) (text)  
Read: 3. "Western Process Metaphysics (Heraclitus, Whitehead and Spinoza)," George Sessions (reader)

**Class #16**      Thurs. Feb. 24:      Read: 1. "Chapter 11: Social Ecology and Ecofeminism," Des Jardins (text)  
Read: 2. "Feminism and Ecology," Carolyn Merchant; "Making Peace with Nature: Why Ecology Needs Feminism," Patsy Hallen; "Artists as Healers: Envisioning Life-giving Culture," Gloria Feman Orenstein; "Ecological Feminism," Karen Warren and Jim Cheney, Env. Ethics: An Anthology (reader)

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## Week 9

## Group 4 & All

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| <b><u>Class #17</u></b> | <u>Tues. Mar. 1:</u>  | <u>Read 1.</u> : "Ecology, Place and the Awakening of Compassion," Gary Snyder<br><br><u>Read 2.</u> : "Ritual is Essential," Dolores LaChapell (reader) |
| <b><u>Class #18</u></b> | <u>Thurs. Mar. 3:</u> | Shared Summary Session:<br>1-2 paragraphs each. Short personal statements that reflect on the reading and environmental ethics.                          |

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## Week 10

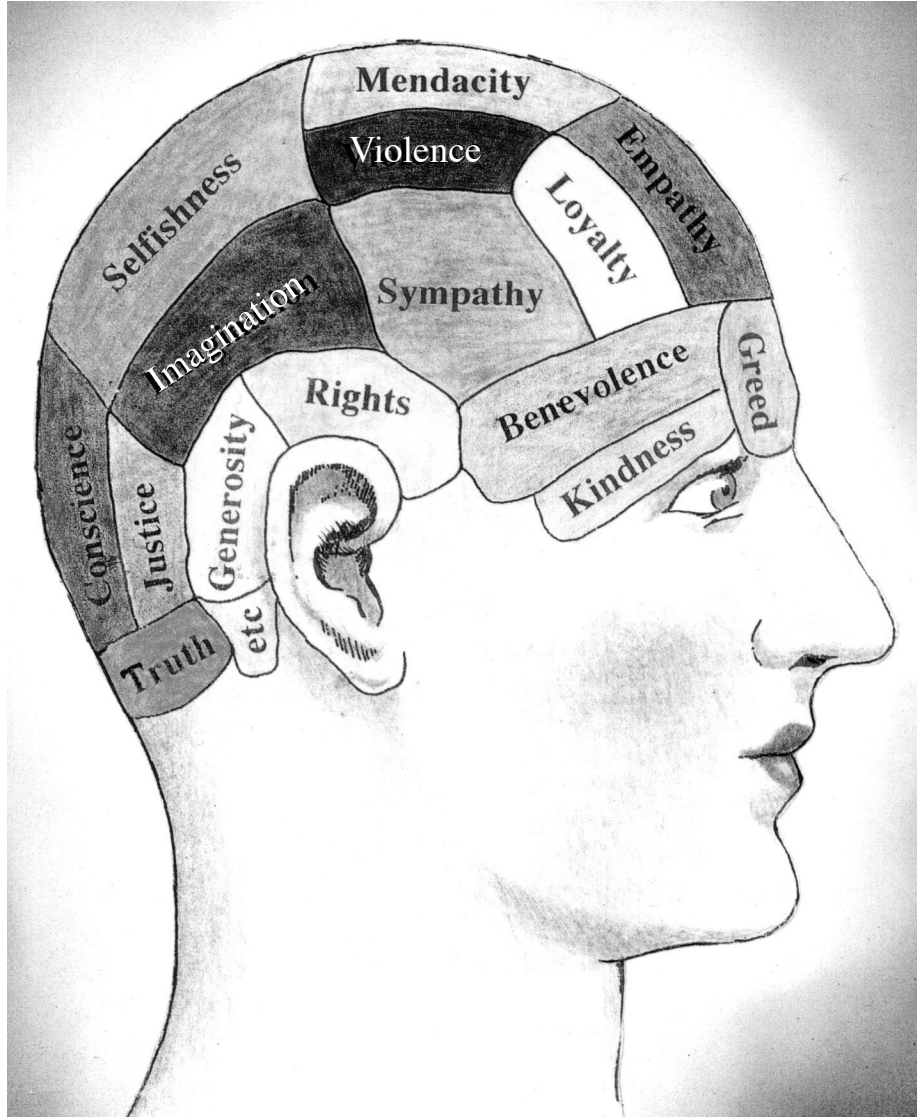
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Review Week in Landscape Architecture and Architecture: **No class.**

**Time to research and write class papers.**

### Term Assignments

- 1.** **Accumulating Notebook:** Two written paragraphs (min. for each class). Description, appreciation, comments and/or questions about the day's reading for each class as preparation for discussion.  
Class Participation = **50%**  
(E-mail paragraphs to Jerry each evening before class.. Bring to class for discussion!)
- 2** **\*(grads only)** Shared responsibility for classes. 1 group assigned to each class session (Class #2-#17) Scheduled participation at first session.  
  
Review and interpret the reading, prepare questions for discussion  
add personal insight and experience; bring related materials for information and class discussion =
- 3.** Class discussion (all) = **25%**
- 4.** A 4 page paper + illustrations, summarizing the contributions of one of the principle writers from the class and their relevance today - to be collected into a class publication. **25%**  
(Due: Wed. Mar. 16 @ 2:00PM.. Email pdfs to diethelm@darkwing.uoregon.edu Returned on Friday Mar. 18,'05 electronically. Publication available at beginning of spring term.



from *Introducing Ethics* by Dave Robinson and Chris Garratt