



DEEP ECOLOGY



The Rights of Nature

LA 4/543 • Land & Landscape • Environmental Ethics •
 Jerome Diethelm, Professor Winter 2001

Roderick Frazier Nash

Essays by
 Aldo Leopold



Winter 2001

**LA 4/543 LAND AND LANDSCAPE:
ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS**

Jerome Diethelm, Professor

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.

This year the conceptual focus of the class is on the meaning and evolution of environmental ethics. There are two required texts.

1. **Roderick Nash's recent book: *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 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 of selected articles from the literature of the field.

We'll ask and discuss such questions as:

What are ethics? An ethic? Moral expansionism? A land ethic?

Does nature have intrinsic worth? (& what does that mean?)

Does nature have rights? Do animals? insects? viruses? rocks?

If nature has rights, when are human actions unjust? (Who's more important here?)

What is justice? environmental justice?

Is it better to suffer an injustice than to do an injustice to an other?

Is a rights approach to environmental ethics the best approach? What are its benefits, drawbacks?

LAND AND LANDSCAPE READING

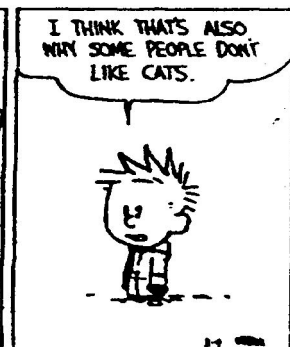
LA 4/543 • Winter 2001

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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

Week 1

<u>Class # 1</u>	<u>Tues. Jan. 9:</u>	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.
<u>Class # 2</u>	<u>Thurs. Jan. 11:</u>	Read: 1. “Earth Ethics: A Challenge to Liberal Education” Holmes Rolston III (reader)

Week 2

<u>Class # 3</u>	<u>Tues. Jan. 16:</u>	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)
<u>Class # 4</u>	<u>Thurs. Jan. 18:</u>	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)

Week 3

Class # 5 Tues. Jan. 23: Read: 1. "Ideological Origins of American Environmentalism," (Chapter 2, Nash).
Read 2. "The Last Endangered Species," Stephen Fox, (reader)

Class # 6 Thurs. Jan. 25: 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)

Week 4

Class # 7 Tues. Jan. 30: 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. Feb. 1: Read: 1. "The Land Ethic," Aldo Leopold;
Read: 2. "Thinking Like a Mountain," Aldo Leopold (reader)

Week 5

Class # 9 Tues. Feb. 6: 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. 8: Read: 1 "Duties to Ecosystems"
Guest: Joern Langhorst Holms Rolston III (reader)

Week 6

<u>Class #11</u>	<u>Tues. Feb. 13:</u> Earthbound	<u>Read: 1.</u> "Ethical Issues In Agriculture," William Aiken in (reader)
<u>Class #12</u>	<u>Thurs. Feb. 15:</u>	<u>Read: 1.</u> "The Greening of Religion," (Chapter 4, Nash); (text) <u>Read: 2.</u> "The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis," Lynn White, Jr. (reader)

Week 7

<u>Class #13</u>	<u>Tues. Feb. 20:</u>	<u>Read: 1.</u> "The Greening of Philosophy," (Chapter 5, Nash); <u>Read: 2.</u> (Selections from the reserve shelf)
<u>Class #14</u>	<u>Thurs. Feb. 22:</u>	<u>Read: 1.</u> "Chapter 3: The Dominant Modern Worldview and its Critics," Bill Devall & George Sessions in <i>Deep Ecology</i> <u>Read: 2.</u> "Chapter 4: the Reformist Response," Bill Devall & George Sessions in <i>Deep Ecology</i> <u>Read: 3.</u> "Chapter 5: <i>Deep Ecology</i> ," Bill Devall & George Sessions (reader)

Week 8

<u>Class #15</u>	<u>Tues. Feb. 27:</u>	<u>Read: 1.</u> "Introduction to <i>The Deep Ecology Movement</i> , 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) <u>Read: 2.</u> "Liberating Nature," (Chapter 6, Nash) (text) <u>Read: 3.</u> "Western Process Metaphysics (Heraclitus, Whitehead and Spinoza)," George Sessions (reader)
<u>Class #16</u>	<u>Thurs. Feb. 29:</u>	<u>Read: 1.</u> "Chapter 11: Social Ecology and Ecofeminism," Des Jardins (text) <u>Read: 2.</u> "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 (reader)

Week 9

Class #17	<u>Tues. Mar. 6:</u>	<u>Read 1.:</u> "Ecology, Place and the Awakening of Compassion," Gary Snyder <u>Read 2.:</u> "Ritual is Essential," Dolores LaChapell (reader)
Class #18	<u>Thurs. Mar. 8:</u>	Shared Summary Session: 1-2 paragraphs each. Short personal statements that reflect on the reading and the class.

Week 10

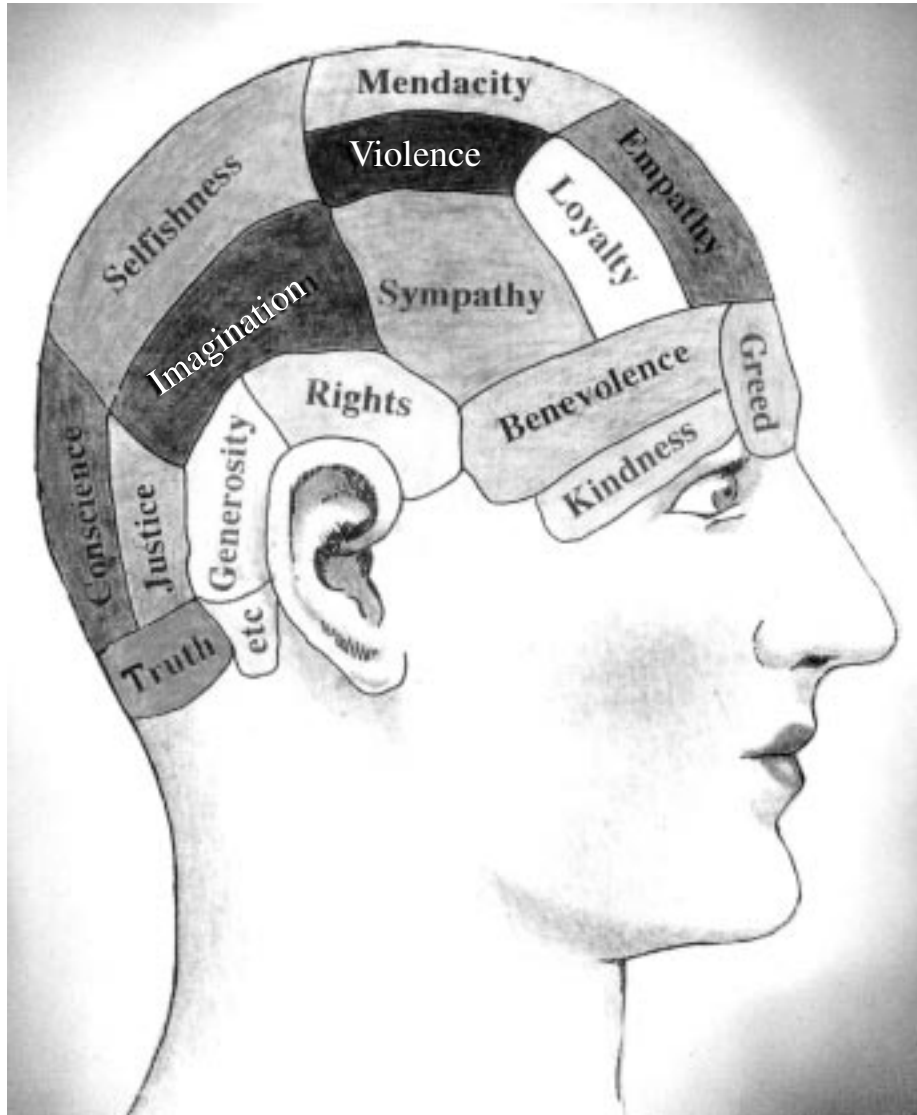
Review Week in Landscape Architecture and Architecture: **No class.**

Time to research and write class papers.

Term Assignments

1. **Accumulating Notebook:** Two written paragraphs (min. for each class). Appreciation, comments and/or questions about the day's reading for each class as preparation for discussion. Class Participation = **50%**
(Turn in a copy each Thursday. Keep your original)
2. ***(grads only)** Shared responsibility for classes. 1 grad assistant required for each class session (Class #2-#17) Scheduled participation at first session.

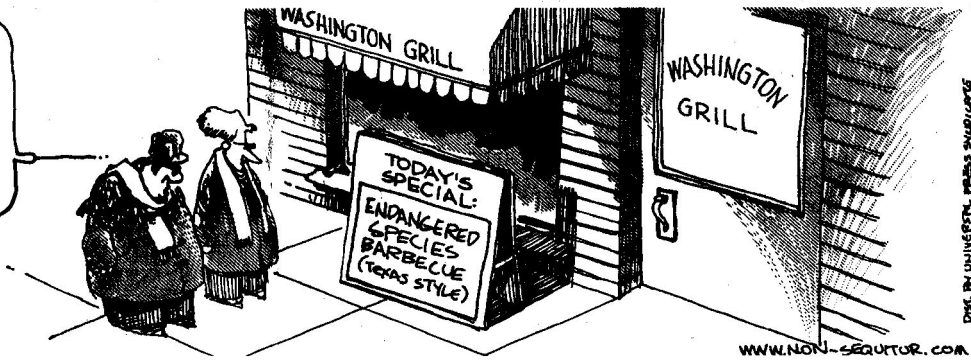
Prepare questions for discussion; draw insights from the reading and personal experience; bring background and related materials for information and class discussion = **25%**
3. Class discussion (all) = **25%**
4. A 6 page summary paper reflecting on the accumulated materials, discussions from the class and other related readings that centers on the question: Does nature have rights?.
25%
(Due: Wed. Mar. 21, @ 9:00am.. Put in box in alcove across from 216 La.)
Returned on Friday Mar. 23;01 in alcove or department boxes.



from *Introducing Ethics* by Dave Robinson and Chris Garratt

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DIFFICULT TO
PINPOINT WHEN
ONE ERA ENDS
AND ANOTHER
BEGINS...



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