

PHIL 340: Environmental Philosophy
2:00-2:50 MWF, 152 ED

Winter 2007, CRN 24071

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Office Hours: 12:30 - 1:45 MW

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Office Hours: MW 3:00 - 4:00
F 9-9:50, 123 MCK (CRN 24072)
F 10-10:50, 201 VIL (CRN 24073)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Does nature have any value apart from the use we make of it? Has our contemporary economic system and technological lifestyle alienated us from the local places where we live? Does resolving our environmental problems also require addressing gender and social inequities? How obligated are we to live differently and promote social changes in response to our worsening environmental situation? What alternatives for living differently are genuinely open to us today?

To explore these questions, the first half of our course will examine the most influential movements in recent environmental thought: deep ecology, ecofeminism, social ecology, bioregionalism, and ecophenomenology. In the second half, we will focus on key themes of current debate in the field, including environmental justice, the proper role of economics in environmental decision-making, our relationship with technology, radical environmental activism, and the relation between philosophy and activism.

REQUIRED READINGS (available for download from UO library online course reserves)

David Abram, "Philosophy on the Way to Ecology"
Chris Barker, "Green Alert"
Murray Bookchin, "What is Social Ecology?"
J. Baird Callicott, "Environmental Philosophy is Environmental Activism"
John Clark, "The Matter of Freedom: Ecofeminist Lessons for Social Ecology"
Deane Curtin, "Recognizing Women's Environmental Expertise"
Neil Evernden, "Nature in Industrial Society"
Dave Foreman, "Putting the Earth First" and "Strategic Monkeywrenching"
Chellis Glendinning, "Notes toward a Neo-Luddite Manifesto"
Ramachandra Guha, "Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation"
Donna Haraway, "A Cyborg Manifesto" (abridged)
Eugene Hargrove, "Ecological Sabotage: Pranks or Terrorism?"
Paul Hawken, "A Declaration of Sustainability"
Martin Heidegger, "Memorial Address"
Emma Marris, "Environmental Activism: In the Name of Nature"
Michael Martin, "Ecosabotage and Civil Disobedience"
Carl Mitcham, "Three Ways of Being-With Technology"
Arne Naess, "The Deep Ecology Movement: Some Philosophical Aspects"
Arne Naess, "Self-Realization: An Ecological Approach to Being in the World"
Arne Naess, "Ecosophy and Gestalt Ontology"
Kate Rawles, "The Missing Shade of Green"
Holmes Rolston, III, "Feeding People vs. Saving Nature?"
Carol Rose, "Environmental Lessons"
Mark Sagoff, "At the Shrine of Our Lady of Fátima, or Why Political Questions Are Not All Economic"
David Schmidtz, "Natural Enemies: An Anatomy of Environmental Conflict"
George Sessions, "Ecocentrism, Wilderness, and Global Ecosystem Protection"
Gary Snyder, "The Place, the Region, and the Commons"
Noël Sturgeon, "Naturalizing Race: Indigenous Women and White Goddesses"
Leslie Thiele, "Nature and Freedom: A Heideggerian Critique of Biocentric and Sociocentric Environmentalism"
Karen Warren, "The Power and the Promise of Ecofeminism, Revisited"
Paul Watson, "Tora! Tora! Tora!"
Peter Wenz, "Just Garbage"
Langdon Winner, "Luddism as Epistemology"

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. participation & attendance	10%
2. reading quizzes (best five)	10%
3. two take-home essays (4-6 pages, 20% each)	40%
4. midterm and final exam (20% each)	40%

N Class Participation/Attendance: You are expected to participate actively in this class, which includes attending the lectures, reading all assigned material prior to class, and participating actively and productively in your discussion section. **Missing FIVE classes, either discussion sections or lectures, FOR ANY REASON will result in a full grade reduction.** An additional full grade reduction will be made for each additional missed class after the fifth. Three late arrivals for class will count as one absence. Discussion is crucial to this class, and your discussion leader and I will do our best to make you feel at ease and welcome to contribute to the conversation. The best way to understand these sometimes difficult and controversial topics is to talk about them with each other, so please feel free to contribute any question, objection, or other thought about the topic at hand when such occurs to you. Although no relevant remark is out of bounds in this class, you will be expected to treat all members of the class respectfully and professionally. The quality and quantity of your participation in the class discussion will be evaluated in assigning 10% of your final course grade. In addition to any penalties that you receive for failure to attend class, absences from class will also negatively affect your participation grade.

N Reading Quizzes: On a number of occasions throughout the term, brief quizzes will be given either at the beginning or end of the course lecture. These quizzes will be unannounced and will cover the assigned reading for that class period and/or material covered in the previous lecture. The best way to prepare for these quizzes is to read all assigned materials carefully and review notes from the previous lecture before arriving for class. Since some quizzes may be “open text,” you are encouraged to bring copies of the assigned readings to class. Only the best five quiz grades will be counted in calculating your final grade; the lowest quiz grades will be dropped. **No makeup quizzes will be given for any reason.** If a quiz is missed due to absence, late arrival, or early departure, this missed quiz will be treated as one of the grades to be dropped.

N Take-home essays: Two 4-6 page essays will be required in response to assigned topics, which will be posted on Blackboard at least one week prior to the deadline for the essay. These essays are due in class on the dates specified on the syllabus. Essays should have standard fonts and margins and must be typed, stapled, proof-read, and double-spaced. Include your name and the time that your discussion section meets on the first page. Late essays will lose one letter grade for each calendar day that they are late. Each essay will be worth 20% of your final grade.

N Midterm and Final Exam: Exams will be based on material assigned as readings and topics discussed in class. The final will include only material covered after the midterm. Each exam will be worth 20% of the final course grade. A review sheet to guide your study will be posted on Blackboard prior to the exam.

PLEASE NOTE

N Inclement Weather: It is generally expected that class will meet unless the University is officially closed for inclement weather. If, however, it becomes necessary to cancel class while the University remains open, this will be announced on Blackboard and through the Blackboard email system.

N Academic Dishonesty: All work submitted in this course must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of academic dishonesty, refer to the UO Schedule of Classes. Violations will be taken seriously and are noted on student disciplinary records. If you are in doubt regarding the requirements, please consult with the instructor or GTF before you complete any course assignment. For assistance in avoiding plagiarism, see “Avoiding Plagiarism: A Guide for Students” on the UO Library website, <<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/>>.

N Disability Accommodations: If you have a documented disability, please inform me and the GTF directing your discussion section as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

(Changes to this schedule and specific assignments will be announced at the start of each class).

Week 1: 1/8, 1/10, 1/12	Introduction to course DEEP ECOLOGY Naess, "The Deep Ecology Movement: Some Philosophical Aspects" Naess, "Self-Realization: An Ecological Approach to Being in the World" Naess, "Ecosophy and Gestalt Ontology"
Week 2: 1/17, 1/19	[No Class on Monday, 1/15: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday] Sessions, "Ecocentrism, Wilderness, and Global Ecosystem Protection" Guha, "Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation"
Week 3: 1/22, 1/24, 1/26	ECOFEMINISM Warren, "The Power and the Promise of Ecofeminism, Revisited" Curtin, "Recognizing Women's Environmental Expertise" Sturgeon, "Naturalizing Race: Indigenous Women and White Goddesses"
Week 4: 1/29, 1/31, 2/2	First Take-Home Essay Due: 1/29 SOCIAL ECOLOGY & BIOREGIONALISM Bookchin, "What is Social Ecology?" Clark, "The Matter of Freedom: Ecofeminist Lessons for Social Ecology" Snyder, "The Place, the Region, and the Commons"
Week 5: 2/5, 2/7, 2/9	ECO-PHENOMENOLOGY Heidegger, "Memorial Address" Thiele, "Nature and Freedom" Evernden, "Nature in Industrial Society" Abram, "Philosophy on the Way to Ecology"
Week 6: 2/12, 2/14, 2/16	Midterm Exam, 2/12 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & ECONOMICS Rolston, "Feeding People vs. Saving Nature?" Schmidtz, "Natural Enemies: An Anatomy of Environmental Conflict"
Week 7: 2/19, 2/21, 2/23	Wenz, "Just Garbage" Hawken, "A Declaration of Sustainability" Sagoff, "At the Shrine of Our Lady of Fátima, or Why Political Questions Are Not All Economic"
Week 8: 2/26, 2/28, 3/2	Second Take-Home Essay Due: 2/26 TECHNOLOGY Glendinning, "Notes toward a Neo-Luddite Manifesto" Winner, "Luddism as Epistemology" Mitcham, "Three Ways of Being-With Technology" Haraway, "A Cyborg Manifesto"
Week 9: 3/5, 3/7, 3/9	ECOTAGE & ITS CRITICS Watson, "Tora! Tora! Tora!" Foreman, "Putting the Earth First," "Strategic Monkeywrenching" Hargrove, "Ecological Sabotage: Pranks or Terrorism?" (with replies) Martin, "Ecosabotage and Civil Disobedience" GUEST SPEAKER: Kelpie Wilson, Environmental Editor for <i>Truthout</i> (truthout.org) FILM – TREE-SIT: The Art of Resistance (Earth Films)
Week 10: 3/12, 3/14, 3/16	PHILOSOPHY AND ACTIVISM Rose, "Environmental Lessons" Rawles, "The Missing Shade of Green" Callicott, "Environmental Philosophy is Environmental Activism"
Thursday, 3/22	Final Exam, 3:15 - 5:15