



ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

INSTRUCTOR:	Larry Gray	CLASSES:	Wednesdays
OFFICE:	Library	TIME:	6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment	ROOM:	TBA
TELEPHONE:	332-4442	E-MAIL:	lgray@yukoncollege.yk.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A philosophical examination of the moral and ethical dimensions of environmental problems. Topics to be examined include: animal rights; deep ecology; ethics of wildlife “management”, ethics of human-wildlife interaction, ecofeminism; non-Western perspectives on environmental ethics; species preservation; and the cultural bases of environmental issues. The class will provide students with the theoretical foundation required to examine environmental problems in ethical terms. Students will then apply their theoretical knowledge to contemporary environmental problems inside and outside the North. Students are required to give an in-class seminar on a northern environmental issue.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify and critically evaluate various ethical frameworks for understanding environmental issues.
2. Evaluate contemporary global and northern environmental problems from an ethical perspective.
3. Explain their own ethical orientation toward environmental issues.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of major debates in the field of environmental philosophy;
5. Communicate effectively in writing and oral presentations about ethical and moral issues.

COURSE TRANSFER

UBC Phil 2 nd yr (3)	UAF NRM Elec (3)
SFU Phil (3)	UAS Phys Geog Elec (3)
UVIC Phil 200L (1.5)	UR Phil 200L (3)
UNBC Envs 2XX (3)	TRU Phil 2XX (3)

For more information about transferability, contact the School of Liberal Arts.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Second year standing in the School of Liberal Arts.

COURSE FORMAT (3/0)

Classes will be conducted through a lecture/seminar format with some formal class debates on ethical issues. The instructor may assign individual or group activities during seminar periods. Informed participation in all class discussions and activities is critical for your learning and will contribute significantly to your final grade. This course also may include guest speakers and audio-visual presentations.

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION

Regular attendance at, and informed participation in, class are required. All students will be expected to participate in seminar discussions and to carry out individual or group activities assigned by the instructor.

ASSIGNMENTS

Completion of all assignments is required in order to receive a passing grade.

1. Term Paper

Students are required to research and write a paper on an issue in environmental ethics. A range of topics will be provided by the instructor and generated through class discussions. **Due in class on 27 March, 2013.**

2. Debates in Applied Ethics

These assignments require students to work in teams to debate current issues in environmental ethics – locally, nationally and globally. A student moderator will provide an overview of a topic and its ethical dimensions. Each debating team will then present arguments for two sides of the ethical issue. Arguments will draw explicitly on theoretical issues raised in the course and will engage fellow classmates in active forms of learning. Debate topics and formats will be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

3. The Council of All Beings

The Council of All Beings is a communal ritual in which participants step aside from their human identity and speak on behalf of another life-form. A simple structure for spontaneous expression, it aims to heighten awareness of our interdependence in the living body of Earth, and to strengthen our commitment to defend it. The ritual serves to help us acknowledge and give voice to the suffering of our world. It also serves, in equal measure, to help us experience the beauty and power of our interconnectedness with all life. See <http://www.rainforestinfo.org.au/deep-eco/Joanna%20Macy.htm>.

The Council of All Beings is tentatively scheduled for either the last class or next-to-last class.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS

Written assignments for this course must be word-processed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, in Times New Roman (or similar serif) 12-point font. Please ask if you are unfamiliar with the student computer labs. Written assignments must fulfil the basic requirements for academic papers, including use of APA referencing style. Late assignments will be penalized by **5% PER DAY**, to a maximum of 7 days late, unless an extension is legitimately warranted and approved by the course instructor **in advance** of the assignment due date.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism (academic dishonesty) is a serious academic offence and will result in your receiving a mark of zero on the assignment or the course. In certain cases, it can also result in dismissal from the College. Plagiarism involves representing the words of someone else as your own, without citing the source from which the material is taken. If the words of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be cited according to standard academic procedures. The re-submission of a paper for which you have previously received credit and the submission of the same paper for two courses also constitute plagiarism and academic dishonesty. **Do not jeopardize your academic future with plagiarism. It is dishonest and can have serious consequences.**

EXAMINATIONS

A Mid-Term Examination and a Final Examination will be given. Upon unanimous class consent, these exams can be take-home exams.

EVALUATION

Marks will be distributed as follows:

Term Paper	25
Debates in Applied Ethics	20
Mid-term Exam	20
The Council of All Beings	10
Final Exam	25
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Total	100

WRITING CENTRE

All students are encouraged to make the Writing Centre a regular part of the writing process for coursework. Located in Room C2211 (in the College Library), the Writing Centre offers writing coaching sessions to students of all writing abilities. For further information or to book an appointment, visit the Centre's website: writingcentre@yukoncollege.yk.ca

At the instructor's discretion, students may be required to attend Writing Centre coaching sessions during the composition process of their paper(s) as a condition of assignment completion. The number of sessions required per assignment will be specified on the assignment sheet, and the Writing Centre will issue written confirmation of attendance, which should be attached to the written work being submitted for evaluation.

REQUIRED READINGS

Readings will be supplied by the instructor.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability or chronic condition. It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student has a disability or chronic condition and may need accommodation to fully participate in this class, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Readings from “Environmental Ethics for Canadians”
January 8	Course Introduction	
January 15	Environmental Aesthetics	Chapter 7, p 187-214
January 23	Biocentrism	Chapter 2, p 52-77
January 29	Ecocentrism and Deep Ecology	Chapter 3, p. 78-105
February 5	Animal Welfare/Animal Rights	Chapter 1, p.26-51
February 12	Ecofeminism	Chapter 6, p. 160-186
February 19	First Nations Perspectives	Chapter 8, p. 215-246
February 26	Economics and Ecology	Chapter 4, p. 108-132
March 5	The Biodiversity Crisis	
March 12	Population and Consumption	Chapter 11, p. 306-329
March 19	READING WEEK - NO CLASS ☹	Chapter 12, p. 330-356
March 26	Climate Change	Chapter 10, p. 276-305
April 2	<i>The Council of All Beings</i>	
April 9	Course Review	