

PHIL 312
Environmental Ethics
SPRING 2017

Instructor: Daniel Skibra

Time and Location: M, W; 01:00PM - 2:30PM, Hammerschmidt Chapel, Room 007

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Office Hours: W; 2:30 - 3:30 (Hammerschmidt 004)

Course Description

Emphasizes careful thinking about ethical concepts such as right and wrong, justice and injustice, duty and obligation, in relation to environmental concerns: population, pollution, land development, preservation of ecosystems, and the rights of animals and future generations.

ECIC Area of Knowledge (Inquiry into Ethics and Justice)

This course explores theories and instances of justice and injustice in current and historical human societies. Students will analyze different systems of values that inform how people interact as individuals as well as members of larger societal groups. The course examines ethical reasoning bearing on such principles as liberty, rights, dissent, moral status, equality, and justice.

- Understand several distinct systems of ethical reasoning and theories of value and justice;
- Evaluate in their contexts specific historical and contemporary theories or actions;
- Articulate and evaluate multiple perspectives on ethics and social justice.

Course Requirements

Assignments

Reading Quizzes/ small assignments: 10%

Paper 1 (Due **Mar 1**; Draft due **Feb 21**) (2-3 pages): 15%

Paper 2 (Due **May 3**; Draft due **April 25**) (4-5 pages): 25%

Mid-term Exam (**April 2**): 20%

Final Exam (**May 18**): 20%
Class discussion/ participation: 10%

Notes on assignments

Resources for writing a philosophy paper:

- <http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>

Course Policies

Attendance

You are required to attend the class meetings; attendance will be taken. However, I understand that emergencies arise, people get sick, and other factors may legitimately prevent you from coming to a particular class. Therefore, I will adopt the following attendance policy. Your grade will not be affected by up to **3** absences. You do not need to provide any kind of written excuse or justification for these absences (although you are welcome to provide them). However, more than three absences will begin to have an effect on your final grade, bringing your average down by a third of a grade for each additional day missed. *If at some point in the term you expect to miss more than this (due to a serious illness, for example), let me know as soon as you can, **before** you accumulate the absences!* It will be your responsibility to distribute your absences however you see fit. My advice: try not to use them. You never know when something comes up.

Importantly, you are responsible for the material covered in class. Any slides presented in class will be made available on Blackboard, but class time will often not be devoted to lecture, and material will not always be on the slides. There is simply no substitute for being in class.

Access and Disability Services

Elmhurst College will make accommodations for students with disabilities based on the presentation of appropriate documentation. If you believe that you have a disability that may impact your work in this course, contact Dr. Corinne Smith, Access and Disability Services Coordinator, at corinne.smith@elmhurst.edu, (603) 617-6448.

Learning Center: Academic Support

The Learning Center offers services to support the academic performance of all Elmhurst College students. Sessions are structured to promote principles of effective, self-regulated learning and academic management. Areas of tutoring include math, biology, kinesiology, writing, reading, study skills, and special test preparation (i.e., ACT, SAT, GRE, TAP). For more information, contact Mrs. Emmi McAdams, Math Specialist, at emmim@elmhurst.edu, (630)

617-5376, or Mrs. Susan Roach, Learning Center Director, at susan.roach@elmhurst.edu, (630) 617-3155.

Both Access and Disability Services and the Learning Center are located in the Frick Center in Room 229.

Policy on Academic Integrity

Standards of academic conduct are set forth in the College's Academic Integrity Policy. By registering for this class, you have acknowledged your awareness of the Academic Integrity Policy, and you are obliged to become familiar with your rights and responsibilities as defined by it. Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy will not be treated lightly, and disciplinary actions will be taken should such violations occur.

Extension Policy and Incompletes

The due dates for the assignments are as they appear on the syllabus. Late assignments will not be tolerated, and will accumulate deductions of one third of a letter grade for every day the assignment is late. If you think you will need an extension for an assignment, you need to request one at least two days before the due date. Do not ask after the date has passed, or the night before the deadline.

In-class Technology Policy

In this class, we will regularly engage in small group instruction and activities, as well as discussions with the whole class. Technology such as cell phones, tablets, and laptops easily become a distraction and create an obstacle to engagement during class time. For this reason, the policy of the class will be as follows. Do not use these devices during class time. Any lecture slides will be made available on the online course site, and any notes you might need to make should be taken by hand. Of course, exceptions will be made for adaptive devices. If you have a need for such a device, please consult the instructor.

Email/ Communication

The best way to reach me outside class is via email. However, give me 24-48 hours to respond during the week. If you email me after 5pm on Friday, don't expect a response until Monday morning. Most of the time, I will be able to respond to you sooner than this, but please plan your emails accordingly. When there is a paper due, get all of your questions to me 48 hours before the due date.

I will answer *simple, specific* questions over email pertaining to the course material or the logistics of the course. I can also address simple interpretive questions you have with the material, or arguments you are trying out for your papers. To address anything more involved, you'll need to meet with me in office hours. (I highly encourage you to come to office hours in any event.)

Participation

Participation in class discussion constitutes a significant part of your grade. You will be expected to attend class having done the readings and thought about them enough to discuss the arguments they make, to ask informed questions about them, and to engage with the other members of the class on these matters. Two expectations in service of these aims are worth making explicit. First, you'll need to be well-prepared, having read and thought about the assigned readings before class. Secondly, we will all need to foster a respectful, open environment where we can clarify, interpret and critically engage the philosophical issues dealt with in readings. Maintaining a respectful classroom atmosphere is crucial, and part of your responsibility.

Required Texts

- Peter S. Wenz - *Environmental Ethics Today*, Oxford University Press, 2001 (ISBN:9780195133844)
- John Broome - *Climate Matters*, Norton, 2012 (ISBN:9780393937961)
- Other texts will be posted to the course's Blackboard site.

Reading Schedule*

*The readings should be completed by the date indicated. When a reading assignment is listed more than once, we will continue talking about this reading. It is *not* a new assignment.

Day	Date	Reading Assignment
MON	Jan 29	Introduction
WED	Jan 31	Wenz - Chapter 1, <i>Overpopulation, Markets, and Human Rights</i>
MON	Feb 5	Sen - <i>Property and Hunger</i>
WED	Feb 7	Broome - Chapter 1, <i>Introduction</i>
MON	Feb 12	Wenz - Chapter 2, <i>Energy, Economics, and Future Generations</i>
WED	Feb 14	Broome - Chapter 2, <i>Science</i>
MON	Feb 19	Broome - Chapter 3, <i>Economics</i>
WED	Feb 21	Paper 1 draft due
MON	Feb 26	Broome - Chapter 4, <i>Justice and Fairness</i>
WED	Feb 28	Wenz - Chapter 3, <i>Competing Human-Centered Values</i>
THURS	Mar 1	Paper 1 Final Draft Due
MON	Mar 5	Broome - Chapter 5, <i>Private Morality</i>
WED	Mar 7	Sinnott-Armstrong - <i>It's Not My Fault: Global Warming and Individual Moral Obligations</i>
MON	Mar 12	Broome- Chapter 6, <i>Goodness</i>
WED	Mar 14	Broome - Chapter 7, <i>Uncertainty</i>

Day	Date	Reading Assignment
MON	Mar 19	Spring Break No Class
WED	Mar 21	Spring Break No Class
MON	Mar 26	Lomborg - <i>Let's Keep Our Cool About Global Warming</i>
WED	Mar 28	Broome - Chapter 8, <i>The Future versus the Present</i>
MON	April 2	Mid Term Exam
WED	April 4	Broome - Chapter 9, <i>Lives</i>
MON	April 9	Broome - Chapter 10, <i>Population</i> and Chapter 11, <i>Summary</i>
WED	April 11	Wenz - Chapter 4, <i>Animal Liberation and Utilitarianism</i>
MON	April 16	Wenz - Chapter 5, <i>Animal Rights and Medical Research</i>
WED	April	Cohen - <i>Do Animals Have Rights?</i>
MON	April 23	Norcross - <i>Puppies, Pigs, and People: Eating Meat and Marginal Cases</i>
WED	April 25	Wenz - Chapter 6, <i>Species Diversity and Gaia</i> , Paper 2 Draft Due
MON	April 30	Wenz - Chapter 7, <i>the Land Ethic</i>
WED	May 2	Wenz - Chapter 8, <i>Human Rights, Agriculture, and Biodiversity</i>
THURS	May 3	Paper 2 Final Draft Due
MON	May 7	Wenz - Chapters 11, <i>Personal Choices, Consumerism, and Human Nature</i> and 12, <i>Public Policies, Efficiency, and Globalization</i>
WED	May 9	Catch Up and/ or Review Day
FRI	May 18	Final Exam: 1:00 - 3:00 pm