

APPLICATION FOR NEW COURSE

1. Submitted by the College of Arts and Sciences Date: Aug. 27, 2008

Department/Division proposing course: Philosophy Department

2. Proposed designation and Bulletin description of this course:

a. Prefix and Number PHI 336

b. Title* Environmental Ethics

*If title is longer than 24 characters, offer a sensible title of 24 characters or less: _____

c. Courses must be described by at least one of the categories below. Include number of actual contact hours per week.

() CLINICAL () COLLOQUIUM () DISCUSSION () LABORATORY (3) LECTURE
() INDEPEND. STUDY () PRACTICUM () RECITATION () RESEARCH () RESIDENCY
() SEMINAR () STUDIO () OTHER – Please explain: _____

d. Please choose a grading system: Letter (A, B, C, etc.) Pass/Fail

e. Number of credit hours: 3

f. Is this course repeatable? YES NO If YES, maximum number of credit hours: _____

g. Course description:

An introduction to moral problems that arise in human interaction with the natural environment. Topics to be addressed include questions such as: what is man's place in nature? Do nonhuman animals or ecosystems have intrinsic moral worth, and if so, how can it be respected? What problems and ambiguities arise in attempting to live in an environmentally responsible fashion? How can we adjudicate conflicts between social and environmental values?

h. Prerequisite(s), if any:

None

i. Will this course also be offered through Distance Learning? YES NO

If YES, please check one of the methods below that reflects how the majority of the course content will be delivered:

Internet/Web-based Interactive video Extended campus

3. Supplementary teaching component: N/A or Community-Based Experience Service Learning Both

4. To be cross-listed as: N/A / _____
Prefix and Number printed name Cross-listing Department Chair signature

5. Requested effective date (term/year): Spring / 2010

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[†]In order to change the program(s), a program change form(s) must also be submitted.

17. The major teaching objectives of the proposed course, syllabus and/or reference list to be used are attached.
18. Check box if course is 400G or 500. If the course is 400G- or 500-level, *you must include a syllabus showing differentiation for undergraduate and graduate students by (i) requiring additional assignments by the graduate students; and/or (ii) the establishment of different grading criteria in the course for graduate students. (See SR 3.1.4)*
19. Within the department, who should be contacted for further information about the proposed new course?

Name: Alan Perreiah Phone: 7-7108 Email: pera@uky.edu

20. Signatures to report approvals:

8/27/08
DATE of Approval by Department Faculty

Daniel Breazade Daniel Breazade
printed name Reported by Department Chair signature

9/17/08
DATE of Approval by College Faculty

Leonidas G. Bachas Leonidas G. Bachas
printed name Reported by College Dean signature

1-20-2009
* DATE of Approval by Undergraduate Council

/
printed name Reported by Undergraduate Council Chair signature

* DATE of Approval by Graduate Council

/
printed name Reported by Graduate Council Chair signature

* DATE of Approval by Health Care Colleges Council (HCCC)

/
printed name Reported by Health Care Colleges Council Chair signature

* DATE of Approval by Senate Council

Reported by Office of the Senate Council

* DATE of Approval by University Senate

Reported by Office of the Senate Council

*If applicable, as provided by the *University Senate Rules*. (<http://www.uky.edu/USC/New/RulesandRegulationsMain.htm>)

ARTS AND SCIENCES
EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE
INVESTIGATOR REPORT

<http://www.as.uky.edu/working/collegiate-governance/education-policy-committee/proposals/default.aspx>

INVESTIGATING AREA: Humanities COURSE, MAJOR, DEGREE or PROGRAM: PHI 336

DATE FOR EPC REVIEW: 4/19/08 CATEGORY: NEW CHANGE, DROP

INSTRUCTIONS: This completed form will accompany the course application to the Graduate/Undergraduate Council(s) in order to avoid needless repetition of investigation. The following questions are included as an outline only. Be as specific and as brief as possible. If the investigation was routine, please indicate this. The term "course" is used to indicate one course, a series of courses or a program, whichever is in order. Return the form to Leonidas Bachas Associate Dean, 275 Patterson Office Tower for forwarding to the Council(s). ATTACH SUPPLEMENT IF NEEDED.

1. List any modifications made in the course proposal as submitted originally and why.

No modifications were made to this course proposal. The subcommittee recommends its approval without further changes.
2. If no modifications were made, review considerations that arose during the investigation and the resolutions.
3. List contacts with program units on the proposal and the considerations discussed therein.
4. Additional information as needed.

5. A&S Area Coordinator Recommendation:
APPROVE APPROVE WITH RESERVATION, OR DISAPPROVE

6. A&S Education Policy Committee Recommendation:
APPROVE APPROVE WITH RESERVATION, OR DISAPPROVE

7. Anibal Biglieri Date: 9/29/2008
A&S Educational Policy Committee, Humanities Area Coordinator
Anibal Biglieri, biglieri@email.uky.edu 257-4640

PHI 336

Environmental Ethics

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:00 pm – 3:15 pm
Whitehall Classroom Building 241

Contact Information

Bob Sandmeyer, Ph.D.

ph. 257-7749

bob.sandmeyer@uky.edu

Office Hours:

Tuesdays, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Wednesdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

(or by appointment)

Office: 1429 Patterson Office Tower

Class Web Page:

<http://sweb.uky.edu/~rsand1/phi336/>

Required Texts

1. Leopold, Aldo. *A Sand County Almanac*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1986. (ISBN: 0345345053)
2. *Environmental Ethics: An Anthology*. Edited by Andrew Light and Holmes Rolston III. Wiley-Blackwell Publishers, 2002. (ISBN: 0631222944)
3. Documents available on the class web page

In this class, we will examine questions regarding man's place in nature, whether nonhuman animals have intrinsic moral worth, what kind of value ecosystems have, and whether the effect of human socio-economic activity on the natural world is a subject of ethical concern, and if so, what sort of concern? We will begin by reading a classic text of environmental philosophy, Aldo Leopold's *A Sand County Almanac*. Our central concern here will be to understand the extension of ethics that Leopold proposes in this work to land. Why is land a subject of moral consideration, and what kind or kinds of value can we ascribe to the land? After Leopold, we will turn to our environmental ethics reader in order to examine a number of different issues: (i) what is the proper subject of ethics? Is it solely the human activity, or are animals or even plants also subjects of moral worth? (ii) Is an ecosystem or a natural area, e.g., a wilderness area, valuable in itself or not? (iii) what kind of human socio-economic activity is good and what kind bad? Is eco-tourism, for instance, a moral practice? What, if any, are the moral ambiguities of an ecologically minded consumerism? Are there moral reasons why we should live in such a way that sustains the natural world around us? And correspondingly, how can we adjudicate conflicts between social and environmental values? Lastly, we will conclude the class with a practicum in or near Lexington on the principles and techniques of "leave no trace" camping and hiking.

The central academic aim in this class will be to build up reading and writing skills. The student can expect to write a weekly reading reflection papers. Exceptions to this schedule will be noted on the class schedule posted on the class web page and announced in class. The submitted reflection paper must be typed, double-spaced and longer than one page but less than two pages, 12 point type, and normal margins. The aim of these papers is twofold. First, the assignment is designed to make sure that everyone keeps up with the reading. Second, the reflection papers are meant to help students to identify and follow a theme or cluster of themes across a variety of different texts. These papers are not meant to be summaries of the reading but rather explications of central concepts or dominant themes directly addressed in the reading. Ideally, your reading reflection papers will form the raw materials from which you will write your final thesis defense paper.

Learning Outcomes

- **Recognize** ethical issues pertaining to the environment as they arise both in public policy and regarding individual lifestyle.
- **Formulate** potential responses to these issues based on widely respected ethical theories such as utilitarianism, deontology, and virtue ethics.
- **Evaluate** the strengths and weaknesses of a range of such responses.
- **Defend** their own views on these issues.

Grading

- Exams
 - Mid-term exam: 20% of grade
 - Final Exam: 20% of grade
- Weekly Reflection Papers: 30% of grade
 - One reflection paper per week
 - Each paper will be graded on the standard academic 4 point scale
 - The total grade for this assessment will consist of the average of all weekly submissions
 - The two lowest scoring reflection papers, one from the mid-term exam and one after the mid-term, will not be included in the average.
- One 10 to 12 page Thesis Defense Paper: 30% of the total grade

Grading Scale *(except for reflection papers)*

100% – 90% = A "exceptionally high achievement"

89% – 80% = B "high achievement"

79% – 70% = C "satisfactory achievement "

69% – 60% = D "unsatisfactory achievement"

≤ 59% = E "unsatisfactory performance and failure"

Administrative Issues

No operating electronic communication devices are allowed in class at any time unless required for some documented need. If you have a documented disability which requires academic accommodations, please contact the professor as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center. If you have not already done so, please register with the Disability Resource Center (Room 2 Alumni Gym, 257-2754, jkarnes@uky.edu) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.

If you have accumulated 3 unexcused absences in a row or a total of 5 unexcused absences, you will receive an F in this class. Attendance is mandatory and will be taken every class meeting. Excessive tardiness may be construed as an absence by the instructor. The student is responsible to notify the professor within one week following the period of an excused absence and make up any missed assignments or tests in a timely manner. See §5.2.4.2 of the Student Rights and Responsibilities for the policy on excused absences. It is the student's responsibility to arrange a convenient time to make up the work. There will be no make-ups for graded material missed due to an unexcused absence, and a grade of zero will be awarded for all such assignments.

Students are expected to maintain a professional level of conduct in this class. Cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Of course, students may discuss assignments among themselves or with an instructor or tutor, but when the actual work is done, it must be done by the student, and the student alone. See §6.3.1 & 6.3.2 of Student Rights and Responsibilities, rev. May 5, 1998; see also §6.4.1. See also the [plagiarism](#)

[information sheet](#) or visit the Ombud's web site (<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/>). Please be aware that any evidence of plagiarism from any source or cheating in any aspect of this class will result in a zero for the assignment at minimum.

Class Schedule

Week 1 Syllabus

A Classic Statement of Environmental Philosophy

Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*, pp. 3-32, 72-82

Week 2 Aldo Leopold, "Arizona and New Mexico," in *A Sand County Almanac*, pp. 130-145

Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic," in *A Sand County Almanac*, pp. 237-263

What is the Concern of Environmental Ethics

Week 3 R. Sylvan, "Is there a need for a new, an environmental, ethic?" in EE pp. 47-52

P. Taylor, "The ethics of respect for nature," in EE, pp. 74-84

Week 4 H. Cahen, "Against the moral considerability of ecosystems," in EE p. 114-128

H. Rolston III, "Value in nature and nature of value," in EE pp. 143-153

Week 5 B. Norton, "Environmental ethics and weak anthropocentrism," in EE 163-174

P. Singer, "Not for humans only: the place of nonhumans in environmental issues," in EE, pp. 55-64

Week 6 E. Katz, "Is there a place for animals in the moral consideration of nature," in EE pp.85-94

G. Varner, "Can animal rights activists be environmentalists," in EE pp. 95-113

The Nature of Value

Week 7 J. O'Neill, "The varieties of intrinsic value," in EE pp. 131-142

K. Lee, "The source and locus of intrinsic value: a reexamination," in EE pp. 154-162

Week 8 C. Stone, "Moral pluralism and the course of environmental ethics," in EE pp. 193-202

J.B. Callicott, "The case against moral pluralism," in EE pp. 203-219

Framing the Question: Alternative Approaches

Week 9 W. Fox, "Deep ecology: a new philosophy for our time," in EE pp. 251-261

A. Naess, "The deep ecological movement: some philosophical aspects," in EE pp. 262-274

Week 10 G. Gaard and L Gruen, "Ecofeminism: toward global justice and planetary health," in EE pp. 276-293

K. Warren and J. Cheney, "Ecological feminism and ecosystem ecology," in EE pp. 294-305

Sustainability and the Management of Nature

Week 11 D. Scherer, "The ethics of sustainable resources," in EE pp. 334-358

D. Jamieson, "Ethics, public policy, and global warming," in EE pp. 371-379

Week 12 A. Light, "Ecological restoration and the culture of nature: a pragmatic perspective," in EE pp. 398-411

R. Elliott, "Faking nature," in EE pp. 381-389

Conflicts between Social and Environmental Values

Week 13 H. Rolston III "Feeding people versus saving nature?" in EE pp. 451-462

J.W. Nickel and E. Viola, "Integrating environmentalism and human rights," 472-477

Week 14 B. Barry, "Sustainability and intergenerational justice," 487-499

J.B. Cobb, Jr., "Toward a just and sustainable economic order," in EE pp. 359-370

The Wilderness Idea

Week 15 M. Nelson, "An amalgamation of wilderness preservation arguments," in EE, 413-436

J.B. Callicott, "A critique of and an alternative to the wilderness idea," in EE pp. 437-443

R. Noss, "Wilderness – now more than ever: a response to Callicott," in EE pp. 444-448

Week 16 Leave No Trace Practicum (see class web page for readings)