

Environmental Studies 322 / Philosophy 322 Fall 2022

Environmental Ethics

Course webpage: <https://blackboard.sc.edu>

Meeting Times and Places

Mondays and Wednesdays: from 2:20 p.m.-3:35 p.m. in Close-Hipp 463.

Required Textbooks

- 1) *Climate Matters: Ethics in a Warming World*, John Broome, W.W. Norton, 9780393937961.
- 2) *Environmental Ethics: An Interactive Introduction*, Andrew Kernohan, Broadview Press, 9781554810413.
- 3) *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*, Katherine Hayhoe, Simon & Shuster, 2021, 9781982143831.

(As we proceed through the course, some of our readings will be e-texts, likely posted on Blackboard. I may also place texts on e-reserve or provide you with handouts.)

Catalog Course Description

Examination of principles and arguments surrounding moral issues involving the environment.

Course Description & Objectives

The aims of this course are to introduce students to the subject of environmental ethics and to promote critical reflection about contemporary issues in environmental ethics through discussion and written work. In the first part of the course, we will survey key Western approaches to ethics in general. In the second main part of the course, we will explore some of the practical and applied issues of environmental ethics, including mass extinction, biodiversity, moral duties to non-human species, and considerations of individual and collective moral responsibility. Lastly, we will focus on global climate change and ethics, primarily through John Broome's book, *Climate Matters*, but also via Katherine Hayhoe's recent book, *Saving Us*. During the course, we will also likely touch on other topics, such as overpopulation, scarcity, animal rights, the idea of wilderness, ecofeminism, duties to future generations, and current events and debates.

Students should develop and demonstrate their ability to:

- Identify some of the main positions taken regarding ethical controversies
- Identify and critically analyze the main arguments for these positions
- Critically evaluate and argue cogently for their own views related to environmental ethics
- Recognize and articulate the role that various moral principles or positions may be playing in decisions, actions taken both by individuals and by society
- Identify the source and function of values
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of values and ethics for the self and for society
- Reflect on how values shape personal and community ethics, and decision-making

Carolina Core Outcome:

VSR - Students will be able to examine different kinds of social and personal values, analyzing the ways in which these are manifested in communities as well as individual lives.

Course Requirements & Policies

Readings: Readings: keep up with reading assignments, which will aid class discussion and your performance on quizzes, tests, and other written work. You should read assignments more than once before class. *This is a reading intensive course.*

Participation: Students should be prepared to answer questions about the assigned material and to make worthwhile comments to the class. Full participation credit depends both on the regularity and on the quality of your contributions. Note that attendance alone is not enough to earn full participation credit.

Attendance: Regular attendance is required. You are required to attend 24 out of 28 classes (86%). I will deduct 2 points per absence from your course total beginning with your fifth unexcused absence from class. Excused absences are limited to *bona fide* emergencies, documented illness (confirmed by the Student Health Services or your doctor), or as specified in the UofSC's guide to Undergraduate Academic Regulations. You are responsible for signing the attendance sheet. I will not penalize you for *excused* absences. I will create a link on Blackboard to Undergraduate Student Ombuds Services with access to the Covid-19 report form. Ombuds Services can also help you with other serious non-Covid related issues and absences.

Papers/Written Assignments: No late papers or assignments. You must turn in papers at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. I will only make an exception in the case of a *bona fide* emergency or documented illness (confirmed by the Student Health Services or your doctor).

Make-up Quizzes, Exams or Tests: No make-up quizzes, exams, or tests. Exceptions are as stated above. If you have a conflict with a scheduled test or exam, make sure to speak with me ahead of time.

Disabilities: If you have a disability and need special accommodation, talk with me right away. You will also need to consult with the Student Disability Resource Center at 777-6142.

Incompletes: I will grant an Incomplete only in very special circumstances. You are better off without an Incomplete dragging you down the next semester.

Academic Integrity: Students are held to the standards of academic honesty as outlined in the University of South Carolina's Honor Code (<http://www.housing.sc.edu/academicintegrity/tips.html>). I will report cases of academic dishonesty to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Grades

Short papers/Worksheets/Quizzes/Participation	15%	45points (converted score)
Midterm Exam (possible take-home element)	25%	75points (converted score)
6-8 page paper	30%	90points
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>	<u>90points</u>
Total Points for the course:	100%	300points

Grade Scale

A = 92%	C+ = 77%	D = 62%
B+ = 87%	C = 72%	F = below 62%
B = 82%	D+ = 67%	

Course Schedule: Reading Assignments, Homework Assignments, Quizzes, and Test Dates

I will announce reading assignments, writing assignments, most quizzes, test dates, and due dates in advance in class. I usually provide you with paper assignments at least two weeks in advance of due dates. I will also post this information on Blackboard, so check it often.

Final Exam: Friday, December 9, 2022, from 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Note: I will provide you with exam details about a week prior to the final exam.

Special Notes

Make sure to communicate with me, especially if you begin to have difficulties related to the course, or if difficulties related to the current pandemic arise. If we discuss a problem early on, then we are more likely to find a positive solution to your problem, which is better for all concerned. With all of the challenges we currently face it is important to be understanding and flexible.

With the challenges we currently face, it is important to be understanding and flexible. We'll adhere to the most recent UofSC Covid policies. Wearing your mask after a recent infection will help to protect your fellow classmates and ensure that face-to-face instruction continues throughout the semester.

Tentative Reading Schedule: (CM = Climate Matters, EE = *Environmental Ethics*, SU = *Saving Us*, and PDFs are posted on Blackboard)

Week 1

Mon. Aug. 22: First Class—No Reading.

Wed. Aug. 24: Edwards, *Reading Philosophy* (PDF), and EE, Kernohan, *Chapter 1: Introduction to Environmental Ethics*, pages 3-14.

Week 2

Mon. Aug. 29: EE, Kernohan, *Chapter 2—Metaethics*, pages 15-26.

Wed. Aug. 31: EE, Kernohan, *Chapter 3--Ethical Analysis*, pages 27-39.

Week 3

Mon. Sept. 5: LABOR DAY-NO CLASS

Wed. Sept. 7: EE, Kernohan, *Chapter 4--Ethical Egoism*, pages 41-53.

Week 4

Mon. Sept. 12: Continue with EE, *Chapter 4*, as needed, begin EE, Kernohan, *Chapter 5--Utilitarianism*, pages 55-67, and scan Bentham, *Principle of Utility* (PDF).

Wed. Sept. 14: Continue with EE, *Chapter 5*, and EE, Kernohan, *Chapter 6—Virtue Ethics*, pages 69-81.

Week 5

Mon. Sept. 19: EE, Kernohan, *Chapter 7—Rights*, pages 83-94, Shafer-Landau, *Kantian Ethics* (PDF), and Jamieson, *Normative Ethics: Kant* (PDF).

Wed. Sept. 21: Continue with EE, *Chapter 7* and Jamieson as needed, and begin EE *Chapter 8--Justice*.

Week 6

Mon. Sept. 26: QUIZ

Wed. Sept. 28: TBA

Week 7

Mon. Oct. 3: Baxter, *People or Penguins*, (PDF) pages 497-500, and Taylor, *Respect for Nature* (PDF).

Wed. Oct. 5: Taylor, *Respect For Nature, Part Four: The Ethical System*, (PDF) pages 169-218.

Week 8

Mon. Oct. 10: Continue with Taylor, *Part Four*, as needed, begin Taylor, *Respect For Nature, Part Six: Competing Claims and Priority Principles*, (PDF) pages 256-313.

Wed. Oct. 12: Continue with Taylor, *Part Six*, as needed, and scan EE, Kernohan, *Chapter 13—Biocentrism*.

Week 9

Mon. Oct. 17: Muir, *Hetch Hetchy Valley*, (PDF) pages 230-231, Pinchot, *The Fight for Conservation*, (PDF), Leopold, *The Land Ethic*, (PDF) pages 124-129, and Naess, *The Shallow and The Deep*, (PDF) pages 129-132.

Wed. Oct. 19: Continue with Leopold and Naess, as needed, look over Kernohan, EE, *Chapter 14--Ecocentric Ethics*, pages 179-189.

Week 10

Mon. Oct. 24: Clowney, *Biophilia as an Environmental Virtue*, (PDF) pages 999-1014, and scan E.O. Wilson, PDF (excerpts).

Wed. Oct. 26: POST-MIDTERM EXAM

Week 11

Mon. Oct. 31: Hayhoe, SU, *Chapters 1-7*, pages 3-83.

Wed. Nov. 2: Hayhoe, SU, *Chapters 8-17*, pages 87-191.

Week 12

Mon. Nov. 7: Hayhoe, SU, continue with previous chapters, as needed, and *Chapters 18-22*, pages 195-245.

Wed. Nov. 9: CM, Broome, *Chapters 1-3*, pages 1-48, and scan EE, Kernohan, *Chapter 17—Ethics and Economics*.

Week 13

Mon. Nov. 14: CM, Broome, *Chapter 4*, pages 49-72.

Wed. Nov. 16: CM, Broome, *Chapters 5-6*, pages 73-116.

Week 14

Mon. Nov. 21: CM, Broome, *Chapters 7-8*, pages 117-155.

Wed. Nov. 23: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 15

Mon. Nov. 28: CM, Broome, *Chapters 9-11*, pages 156-192.

Wed. Nov. 30: LAST CLASS

*Final Exam: Friday, December 9, 2022, from 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.