EVSP508

Course Summary

Course : EVSP508 **Title :** Environmental Ethics
Length of Course : 8
Prerequisites : N/A **Credit Hours :** 3

Description

Course Description: This course is an advanced study of environmental issues from a moral and philosophical approach. Issues raised in the course and through student research and writing will include: the moral obligation or lack thereof, to preserve and protect the environment; the ethical presumptions that underlie environmental policy; the traditional theories of moral philosophy applicable to contemporary environmental problems; and the potential for a new concept of the relationship between humanity and nature.

Course Scope:

This course is the study of the field of environmental ethics, which integrates perspectives from philosophy, conservation biology, and related disciplines. In the first part of the class, numerous theoretical origins of environmental ethics are evaluated and include religious theories, rights of animals, intrinsic values of nature, and deep ecology. Non-western world views and theories will also be examined along with the question of our obligations to future generations. The second part of the class will examine the practical application and implications of these philosophies through evaluation of topics including population and consumption of resources, food ethics, pollution, climate change, environmental justice and the outlook for a sustainable society. Students will independently evaluate whether the United States' government has an underlying environmental ethic.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- LO-1 Critique the philosophical bases and key arguments for various environmental ethical positions.
- LO-2 Compare and contrast various philosophical positions for protecting the environment.
- LO-3 Analyze real-life ecological and social implications of adopting various environmental ethics.
- LO-4 Evaluate the underlying environmental ethics of the United States government.

Outline

Week 1: Introduction to Environmental Ethics

Learning Objectives

LO-1 Critique the philosophical bases and key arguments for various environmental ethical positions.

LO-2 Compare and contrast various philosophical positions for protecting the environment.

Readings

    Readings Identified in the Lessons

    Lecture Notes

Assignments

Forum 1

Assignment 1

Week 2: Animal Rights and Non-Western Views

Learning Objectives

LO-1 Critique the philosophical bases and key arguments for various environmental ethical positions.

LO-2 Compare and contrast various philosophical positions for protecting the environment.

LO-3 Analyze real-life ecological and social implications of adopting various environmental ethics.

Readings

    Readings Identified in the Lessons

    Lecture Notes

Assignments

Forum 2

Assignment 2

Week 3: Value in Nature

Learning Objectives

LO-1 Critique the philosophical bases and key arguments for various environmental ethical positions.

LO-2 Compare and contrast various philosophical positions for protecting the environment.

LO-3 Analyze real-life ecological and social implications of adopting various environmental ethics.

Readings

    Readings Identified in the Lessons

    Lecture Notes

Assignments

Forum 3

Assignment 3

Week 4: Ecological Ethics

Learning Objectives

LO-1 Critique the philosophical bases and key arguments for various environmental ethical positions.

LO-2 Compare and contrast various philosophical positions for protecting the environment.

LO-3 Analyze real-life ecological and social implications of adopting various environmental ethics.

Readings

   Readings Identified in the Lessons

   Lecture Notes

Assignments

Forum 4

Assignment 4

Week 5: Population, Consumption and Food Ethics

Learning Objectives

LO-1 Critique the philosophical bases and key arguments for various environmental ethical positions.

LO-2 Compare and contrast various philosophical positions for protecting the environment.

LO-3 Analyze real-life ecological and social implications of adopting various environmental ethics.

Readings

   Readings Identified in the Lessons

   Lecture Notes

Assignments

Forum 5

Assignment 5

Week 6: Natural Resources, Pollution and Policy

Learning Objectives

LO-1 Critique the philosophical bases and key arguments for various environmental ethical positions.

LO-2 Compare and contrast various philosophical positions for protecting the environment.

LO-3 Analyze real-life ecological and social implications of adopting various environmental ethics.

LO-4 Evaluate the underlying environmental ethics of the United States government.

Readings

Readings Identified in the Lessons

Lecture Notes

Assignments

Forum 6

Term Paper Outline

Week 7: Equality in Environmental Ethics

Learning Objectives

LO-1 Critique the philosophical bases and key arguments for various environmental ethical positions.

LO-2 Compare and contrast various philosophical positions for protecting the environment.

LO-3 Analyze real-life ecological and social implications of adopting various environmental ethics.

LO-4 Evaluate the underlying environmental ethics of the United States government.

Readings

Readings Identified in the Lessons

Lecture Notes

Assignments

Forum 7

Assignment 7

Week 8: Sustainability and Moving Forward

Learning Objectives

LO-1 Critique the philosophical bases and key arguments for various environmental ethical positions.

LO-2 Compare and contrast various philosophical positions for protecting the environment.

LO-3 Analyze real-life ecological and social implications of adopting various environmental ethics.

LO-4 Evaluate the underlying environmental ethics of the United States government.

Readings

Readings Identified in the Lessons

Lecture Notes

Assignments

Forum 8

Final Project

Evaluation

Grading:

Name	Grade %
Forum	24.00 %
Week 1 Forum	3.00 %
Week 2 Forum	3.00 %
Week 3 Forum	3.00 %
Week 4 Forum	3.00 %
Week 5 Forum	3.00 %
Week 6 Forum	3.00 %
Week 7 Forum	3.00 %
Week 8 Forum	3.00 %
Assignments	42.00 %
Assignment 1 - Wk 1	7.00 %
Assignment 2 - Wk 2	7.00 %
Assignment 3 - Wk 3	7.00 %
Assignment 4 - Wk 4	7.00 %
Assignment 5 - Wk 5	7.00 %
Assignment 6 - Wk 7	7.00 %
Term Paper Outline	10.00 %
Term Paper OUTLINE	10.00 %
Final Paper	24.00 %
Term Paper	24.00 %

Materials

Book Title: There are no required books for this course.

Author: N/A

Publication Info: N/A

ISBN: N/A

Required Readings

See the Lessons section of the classroom for additional readings and weekly lecture notes

Additional Resources: Please go to the program guides in the APUS Library for additional resources:

- Environmental Policy and Management:
  http://apus.campusguides.com/environmental_policy_management?hs=a

Software Requirements

- Microsoft Office (MS Word, MS Excel, MS PowerPoint) - American Public University System provides Microsoft Office 365 to AMU/APU students and faculty at no cost
- Adobe Acrobat Reader

Course Guidelines

Citation and Reference Style

- Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

Tutoring

- Tutor.com offers online homework help and learning resources by connecting students to certified tutors for one-on-one help. AMU and APU students are eligible for 10 free hours* of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutors are available 24/7 unless otherwise noted. Tutor.com also has a SkillCenter Resource Library offering educational resources, worksheets, videos, websites and career help. Accessing these resources does not count against tutoring hours and is also available 24/7. Please visit the APUS Library and search for 'Tutor' to create an account.

Late Assignments

- Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. The due date for each assignment is listed under each Assignment.
- Generally speaking, late work may result in a deduction up to 15% of the grade for each day late, not to exceed 5 days.
- As a working adult I know your time is limited and often out of your control. Faculty may be more flexible if they know ahead of time of any potential late assignments.

Turn It In

- Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. This is automatically processed through the Assignments area of the course.

Academic Dishonesty

- Academic Dishonesty incorporates more than plagiarism, which is using the work of others without citation. Academic dishonesty includes any use of content purchased or retrieved from web services such as CourseHero.com. Additionally, allowing your work to be placed on such web services is academic dishonesty, as it is enabling the dishonesty of others. The copy and pasting of content from any web page, without citation as a direct quote, is academic dishonesty. When in doubt, do not copy/paste, and always cite.

Submission Guidelines

- Some assignments may have very specific requirements for formatting (such as font, margins, etc) and submission file type (such as .docx, .pdf, etc) See the assignment instructions for details. In general, standard file types such as those associated with Microsoft Office are preferred, unless otherwise specified.

Disclaimer Statement

- Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

Communicating on the Forum

- Forums are the heart of the interaction in this course. The more engaged and lively the exchanges, the more interesting and fun the course will be. Only substantive comments will receive credit. Although there is a final posting time after which the instructor will grade comments, it is not sufficient to wait until the last day to contribute your comments/questions on the forum. The purpose of the forums is to actively participate in an on-going discussion about the assigned content.
- "Substantive" means comments that contribute something new and hopefully important to the discussion. Thus a message that simply says "I agree" is not substantive. A substantive comment contributes a new idea or perspective, a good follow-up question to a point made, offers a response to a question, provides an example or illustration of a key point, points out an inconsistency in an argument, etc.
- As a class, if we run into conflicting view points, we must respect each individual's own opinion. Hateful and hurtful comments towards other individuals, students, groups, peoples, and/or societies will not be tolerated.

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)

- [Extension Requests](#)

- [Academic Probation](#)

- [Appeals](#)

- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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