

## **Course Outline Environmental Ethics**

### Course Description:

In this course, students will learn about a few of the core issues in environmental ethics. Environmental ethics is an area of moral philosophy that examines our relationship with the environment. The first section of this course aims to provide students with a foundation for further philosophical investigation by familiarizing students with philosophical methodology and the notion of moral consideration. The second section of this course will focus on the value of species and the preservation of wilderness. The third section of this course will focus on animals, food, and their relationship to the environment. The last section of this course will focus on justice and climate change.

### Course Texts:

I am aware of the financial impediments posed by acquiring materials for class. To remove this potential barrier to your academic success, all readings are free-to-use and made available electronically.

### Course Reading Schedule:

#### **Day 1: Introduction**

#### **Day 2: Reading and Writing Philosophy; University Resources**

Reading: 1,000 Word Philosophy, “How to Read Philosophy”

Reading: Harvard Writing Center, “How to Write the Philosophy Paper”

#### **Day 3: Moral Status and Moral Consideration**

Reading: Kenneth Goodpaster, “On Being Morally Considerable”

#### **Day 4: Anthropocentrism**

Reading: William Baxter, “People or Penguins”

#### **Day 5: Anthropocentrism**

Reading: Helen Kopnina, et al., “Anthropocentrism: More than Just a Misunderstood Problem”

#### **Day 6: Sentientism and Welfare**

Reading: Peter Singer, “All Animals Are Equal”

#### **Day 7: Sentientism and Rights**

Reading: Tom Regan, “The Case for Animal Rights”

#### **Day 8: Biocentrism**

Reading: Albert Schweitzer, “The Ethic of Reverence of Life”

#### **Day 9: Biocentrism**

Reading: Paul Taylor, “An Ethics of Respect for Nature”

#### **Day 10: Biocentrism and Species Egalitarianism**

Reading: David Schmidtz, “Are All Species Equal?”

**Day 11: Ecocentrism**

Reading: Aldo Leopold, “The Land Ethic”

**Day 12: Ecocentrism**

Reading: Baird Callicott, “The Conceptual Foundations of the Land Ethic”

**Day 13: Deep Ecology**

Reading: Arne Naess, “The Shallow and the Deep, Long-Range Ecological Movement”

**Day 14: Deep Ecology**

Reading: Andrew McLaughlin, “The Heart of Deep Ecology”

**Day 15: Environmental Virtue Ethics**

Reading: Ronald Sandler, “Environmental Virtue Ethics”

**Day 16: Environmental Virtue Ethics**

Reading: Philip Cafaro, “Gluttony, Arrogance, Greed, and Apathy: An Exploration of Environmental Vice”

**Day 17: Ecofeminism**

Reading: Karen Warren, “The Power and Promise of Ecological Feminism”

**Day 18: Species, Biodiversity, and Extinction**

Reading: Lilly-Marlene Russow, “Why Do Species Matter?”

**Day 19: Species, Biodiversity, and Extinction**

Reading: Holmes Rolston III, “Duties to Endangered Species”

**Day 20: Wilderness, Conservation, and Preservation**

Reading: Gifford Pinchot, “The Fight for Conservation”

**Day 21: Wilderness, Conservation, and Preservation**

Reading: Erle Ellis, “Too Big for Nature”

**Day 22: Environmental Ethics and Animal Liberation**

Reading: Baird Callicott, “Animal Liberation: A Triangular Affair”

**Day 23: Environmental Ethics and Animal Liberation**

Reading: Dale Jamieson, “Animal Liberation is an Environmental Ethic”

**Day 24: Environmental Ethics and Food**

Reading: Tom Regan, “We Are What We Eat”

**Day 25: Environmental Ethics and Food**

Reading: Brian Henning, “Standing in Livestock’s ‘Long Shadow’: The Ethics of Eating Meat on a Small Planet”

**Day 26: Environmental Ethics and Food**

Reading: Jennifer Jacquet, et al., “Seafood in the Future: Bivalves Are Better”

**Day 27: Environmental Ethics and Justice**

Reading: Helen Kopnina, “Environmental Justice and Biospheric Egalitarianism: Reflecting on a Normative-Philosophical View of Human-Nature Relationship”

**Day 28: Climate Change, Global Justice, and Intergenerational Justice**

Reading: Henry Shue, “Global Environment and International Inequality”

**Day 29: Climate Change, Global Justice, and Intergenerational Justice**

Reading: Stephen Gardiner, “A Perfect Moral Storm”

**Day 30: Climate Change and Individual Responsibility**

Reading: Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, “It’s Not My Fault: Global Warming and Individual Moral Obligations”