

CATALOG INFORMATION

Dept and Nbr: PHIL 12

Title: ENVIRONMENTAL PHIL

Full Title: Environmental Philosophy

Last Reviewed: 4/10/2023

Units		Course Hours per Week		Nbr of Weeks	Course Hours Total	
Maximum	3.00	Lecture Scheduled	3.00	17.5	Lecture Scheduled	52.50
Minimum	3.00	Lab Scheduled	0	6	Lab Scheduled	0
		Contact DHR	0		Contact DHR	0
		Contact Total	3.00		Contact Total	52.50
		Non-contact DHR	0		Non-contact DHR	0

Total Out of Class Hours: 105.00

Total Student Learning Hours: 157.50

Title 5 Category: AA Degree Applicable

Grading: Grade or P/NP

Repeatability: 00 - Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

Also Listed As:

Formerly:

Catalog Description:

An exploration of philosophical views about what makes the natural environment valuable and how these philosophies apply to selected environmental issues.

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended Preparation:

Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Schedule of Classes Information:

Description: An exploration of philosophical views about what makes the natural environment valuable and how these philosophies apply to selected environmental issues. (Grade or P/NP)

Prerequisites/Corequisites:

Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or equivalent

Limits on Enrollment:

Transfer Credit: CSU;UC.

Repeatability: Two Repeats if Grade was D, F, NC, or NP

ARTICULATION, MAJOR, and CERTIFICATION INFORMATION:

AS Degree:	Area			Effective:	Inactive:
	E	Humanities		Fall 1994	
	H	Global Perspective and Environmental Literacy			
CSU GE:	Transfer Area			Effective:	Inactive:
	C2	Humanities		Fall 1997	
IGETC:	Transfer Area			Effective:	Inactive:
	3B	Humanities		Fall 1997	
CSU Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1994	Inactive:	
UC Transfer:	Transferable	Effective:	Fall 1994	Inactive:	

CID:

Certificate/Major Applicable:

Major Applicable Course

COURSE CONTENT

Student Learning Outcomes:

At the conclusion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Accurately describe and contrast theories in environmental philosophy (from the fields of ethics, aesthetics, political philosophy and, when relevant, epistemology and metaphysics).
2. Critically evaluate theories in environmental philosophy (from the fields of ethics, aesthetics, political philosophy and, when relevant, epistemology and metaphysics).
3. Apply selected environmental philosophies to current environmental issues.

Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain the relationship between environmental philosophy and environmental science.
2. Describe and critique the traditional ethical theories that are relevant to environmental ethics (e.g. utilitarianism, deontology and natural law theory).
3. Evaluate the extent to which these theories place value upon various aspects of the natural environment (e.g. humans, animals, plants, species, ecosystems).
4. Describe and critique non-traditional theories in environmental ethics (e.g. biocentric ethics and the land ethic).
5. Describe and evaluate philosophies which emphasize a more metaphysical approach to environmental philosophy (e.g. Deep Ecology).
6. Describe and critique environmental philosophies that examine the interplay between the environment and social or economic issues (e.g. environmental justice, social ecology, and ecofeminism).
7. Describe and evaluate various theories in environmental aesthetics.
8. Compare and contrast how various environmental philosophies apply to selected global and/or local environmental issues or problems.

Topics and Scope:

- I. Environmental Philosophy in Relation to Environmental Science
 - A. The role of philosophy in environmental studies
 - B. The role of science in environmental studies
 - C. The relationship between philosophy and science in environmental studies
- II. Traditional Ethical Theories in Environmental Philosophy
 - A. Utilitarianism
 - B. Rights theory
 - C. Contractarian theory
 - D. Natural Law theory
 - E. Deontology
- III. Non-traditional Ethical Theories in Environmental Philosophy
 - A. Life-centered (Biocentric) ethics
 - B. The Land Ethic (Ecocentrism)
 - C. Deep Ecology
- IV. Economic, Political and Social Issues in Environmental Philosophy
 - A. Environmental justice/environmental racism
 - B. Social ecology
 - C. Ecofeminism
- V. Environmental Aesthetics
 - A. Thoreau: Wildness and nature aesthetics
 - B. Environmental science as a basis for environmental aesthetics
 - C. Artistic criteria for environmental aesthetics
- VI. Philosophical Theories in Relation to Selected Environmental Issues
 - A. Environmental philosophy and population growth
 - B. Environmental philosophy and agriculture
 - C. Environmental philosophy and global warming
- VII. (Optional) Spiritual/Religious Approaches to Environmental Philosophy
 - A. Native American traditions
 - B. Buddhist and/or Hindu traditions
 - C. Taoism
 - D. Christianity

Assignment:

1. Regular reading assignments (20 - 30 pages a week)
2. Regular reading assessment: such as reading logs, brief summaries, brief response papers, or comprehension quizzes
3. Midterm assessments: examinations or short papers which demonstrate student ability to describe and critically evaluate positions in environmental philosophy and/or apply environmental philosophy to current environmental issues
4. Final assessment: exam, paper, or project that demonstrates student ability to describe and critically evaluate positions in environmental philosophy and/or apply environmental philosophy to current environmental issues
5. May include (up to 10%) a creative assignment (e.g. original poetry, art, performance) that involves creatively expressing or illustrating an environmental perspective
6. May include (up to 10%) participation

Methods of Evaluation/Basis of Grade:

Writing: Assessment tools that demonstrate writing skills and/or require students to select, organize and explain ideas in writing.

Short reading responses, midterm papers, final paper

Writing
30 - 100%

Problem Solving: Assessment tools, other than exams, that demonstrate competence in computational or non-computational problem solving skills.

None

Problem solving
0 - 0%

Skill Demonstrations: All skill-based and physical demonstrations used for assessment purposes including skill performance exams.

None

Skill Demonstrations
0 - 0%

Exams: All forms of formal testing, other than skill performance exams.

Multiple choice, essay exams, short answer

Exams
0 - 70%

Other: Includes any assessment tools that do not logically fit into the above categories.

Participation (up to 10%); Creative project (up to 10%)

Other Category
0 - 20%

Representative Textbooks and Materials:

Reflecting on Nature: Readings in Environmental Ethics and Philosophy. 2nd ed. Gruen, Lori and Jamieson, Dale. Oxford University Press. 2012 (classic)

Moral Ground: Ethical Action for a Planet in Peril. Moore, Kathleen and Nelson, Michael. Trinity University Press. 2011 (classic)

Environmental Ethics: The Big Questions. Keller, David. Wiley-Blackwell. 2010 (classic)

Environmental Philosophy: From Animal Rights to Radical Ecology. 4th ed. Zimmerman, Michael and Callicott, Baird and Clark, John. Pearson. 2004 (classic)

Environmental Ethics: Divergence and Convergence. 3rd ed. Armstrong, Susan and Botzler, Richard. McGraw Hill. 2003 (classic)