

ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Brian G. Henning
Mount St. Mary's University
Fall 2005

<i>Course Number</i>	PHIL 333
<i>Days & Time</i>	Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:45
<i>Office Hours</i>	Tuesday 9:30-12:00; Thursday 11:30-12:30, 2:00-4:00
<i>Office Location</i>	Bradley Hall room 302
<i>Phone Number</i>	Work: x4839
<i>Email</i>	henning@msmary.edu
<i>Course Web Page</i>	http://portal.msmary.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

As concern over the well-being of the planet spreads, people frequently find themselves in conflict over how to balance conservation with the use of natural resources, about visions for our common future, and the wisdom of development. Such conflict stems in important ways from varying understandings of values and responsibilities, of what is good and right. Environmental philosophy is concerned with examining a wide range of intellectual efforts to address the problem of our obligations to what we call "nature" as well as its inhabitants, e.g., animals and other human and non-human beings.

This course is designed to provide a fairly comprehensive overview of the key philosophical issues and arguments within the growing field of environmental philosophy. This class will be organized around the following questions: Are we justified in extending moral consideration beyond the limits of currently existing members of our own species? And if so, how far are we justified in extending it? Future generations of our species, people who do not yet exist? Sentient animals? Species of animals? Non-sentient plants? Ecosystems? Non-living geological systems? Perhaps to the earth as a whole? Our search for answers to these questions will bring us to examine traditional, anthropocentric (human-centered) ethics as well as nonanthropocentric (non-human-centered) ethics, both individualistic and holistic, as well as applications of those ethics to areas such as pollution, animal experimentation, economics, and politics. Given the context provided by these basic issues, we will then examine the arguments presented by certain environmentalist or ecological movements, such as deep ecology, social ecology, ecofeminism and the environmental justice movement.

The goals of this course are:

- 1) to introduce you to some of the major issues within environmental philosophy;
- 2) to encourage you to critically examine your own beliefs as well as the beliefs of others;
- 3) to provide the opportunity to discuss, both in class and in a more sustained written form, your ideas and arguments concerning important issues in environmental philosophy.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following texts are required and can be purchased at the bookstore or online (If ordering online, use the ISBN number to find the correct version):

- Midgley, Mary. *Animals and Why They Matter*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1983. (ISBN 0820320412)
- Pojman, Louis P. Ed. *Environmental Ethics: Readings in Theory and Application*. 4th ed. UK: Wadsworth, 2005. (ISBN 0534639712)
- Fouts, Roger. *Next of Kin*. New York: Bard Books, 1997. (ISBN 0380728222)
- Singer, Peter. *Animal Liberation*. New York: Avon Books, 2002. (ISBN 0060011572)
- Weston, Anthony. *A Rulebook for Arguments*. 3rd ed. Cambridge: Hackett, 2000. (ISBN 0872205525) – used in PHIL 211 & 212 courses
- Photocopied material will also be used for different portions of the class. These materials will be available in *electronic format* (pdf) on the course webpage.

IMPORTANT DATES

Holidays	Due Dates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Break Oct 8-16 • Thanksgiving Nov 23-27 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper Proposal 1 – 8/30 • Paper 1 – 9/27 • Paper Proposal 2 – 10/27 • Paper 2 – 11/29 • Final Exam – Tuesday, 12/13, 12:00-2:00

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

- **Participation:** Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings, *to bring the text being discussed*, and to participate in an appropriate and constructive manner by asking and answering questions respectfully, listening attentively to others, and making thoughtful contributions to class discussions.
- **Discussion Board Forums:** In order to encourage discussion outside of class, students are expected to post messages on the course website discussion board forms (Portal). Every student is responsible for posting at least one message each week. Each posting will be graded on a pass, fail, or distinguished basis. A passing posting will be grammatically correct, demonstrate critical reflection, and be cogently and thoughtfully presented. Students are allowed to skip three weeks without penalty.
- **Essays and Presentation:** Students will write a total of two essays and will be responsible for one class presentation. Late papers will be penalized for each day they are late and *will not be accepted after one week*. Late papers must be emailed directly to the professor. Papers should follow the guidelines in the handout on writing philosophy (Portal). More detailed directions for the papers will be distributed in advance of the due date. Use of the Mount's Writing Center is *strongly* encouraged.
- **Final Exam:** There will be a final exam. See the handout on writing for philosophy regarding the criteria that should be used in constructing your essays. You will not be allowed to use any notes or books during the exam. The final will be cumulative. A study guide will be distributed in advance of the exams.
- **Attendance:** This course gives you the opportunity to spend a semester thinking about and discussing philosophical issues with class members. Your attendance and active participation are essential to these activities. I will only miss class for very serious reasons, and I expect the same of you. Ideally, you should not miss class, and exemplary attendance will positively influence your final grade. Attendance is taken at the beginning of class. Late students will be marked absent unless they notify me immediately after class. Chronic lateness will not be tolerated.
- **Preparation:** In order to be properly prepared, it is not necessary that you understand perfectly what the author wrote. Being prepared means that you have carefully gone over the day's reading, noting what you understand, what you find confusing, and where you agree or disagree with the author. I strongly recommend that you re-read them after we meet and discuss them. Though time intensive, this procedure will greatly increase your comprehension of the material and your performance on tests and papers. Also, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of my office hours if you do not understand something in class.

- **Service Learning 4th Credit Option:** Ideally, ethics is not merely something you learn and think about but also something which you live. To help establish the practical importance of ethics, students are encouraged to enroll in the service learning option for a 4th credit. Members volunteer 30 hours during the semester at one of dozens of local service sites and gain valuable insights into this course. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible, or call Melissa Main at x5223.
- **Email, Portal, and TurnItIn.com:** Contact me during the first week of classes if you would like training on the use of email or the course website (including the discussion board forums). Note: If you have any problems with Mount Email or other computer services on campus, contact Information Technology Office at 301.447.5220 or go to the first floor of Bradley Hall. Anticipate computer problems. Don't wait until the last minute. *Students are encouraged to retain copies of all messages sent to or received from the professor.* Note: All correspondence with the professor should be written and formatted appropriately.
- **Weather Cancellation:** The decision to cancel classes due to weather conditions may be made by the administration or the professor. Cancellation information is accessible on the announcements section of the University website www.msmary.edu/studentsandstaff/campusannouncements/ and 301.447.5777.
- **Wireless Phones:** Students with wireless phones are expected to turn them off during class. Phones that ring during class will be answered by the professor.

ASSIGNMENT WEIGHTS

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| • Participation | 10% |
| • Discussion Board Forums | 10% |
| • Essay 1 | 10% |
| • Presentation | 10% |
| • Essay 2 | 10% |
| • Research Paper | 30% |
| • Final Exam | 20% |

TURNITIN.COM:

The University has subscribed to a paper submission service called TurnItIn.com. I have enrolled with this service and will be using it for all of your written work. If you have not previously used the service, you will need to create an account with TurnItIn.com. Once you have created an account, you need to enroll in this class using the following instructions:

1. Go to Portal under "Handouts" and print off pages 4-7 of the TurnItIn.com Student Guide.
2. Follow the instructions from (1) to register with TurnItIn.com and enroll in our class.
 - a. Class ID: **1324211**
 - b. Password: "green"
3. Refer to page 5 of the TurnItIn.com Student Guide for instructions on submitting an assignment.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

One of the curricular goals of Mount Saint Mary's College is to develop the skills and habits of good writing. Essential to the attainment of this goal is not only the development of the ability to express clearly your own ideas but also the requirement that in any work you submit you distinguish your own thoughts from those of others and that you not submit the words or ideas of another as your own. The failure to satisfy this requirement is called "plagiarism"; plagiarism is a form of dishonesty, inconsistent with genuine scholarship, and a serious offense against college policy. This policy forbids all forms of cheating, including plagiarism, and it stipulates (1) that all offenses be reported both to the Chair of the instructor's department and to the Dean of the College, (2) that the minimum penalty for the first offense will be a failing grade for the assignment or examination on which the offense occurred, (3) that the minimum penalty for the second offense will be a failing grade for the course in which this second offense occurs, and (4) that the penalty for the third offense will be expulsion from the College.

Plagiarism takes many forms and need not be intentional to be plagiarism. It can include quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, or utilizing the published or unpublished work of others without proper acknowledgment. Most frequently it involves the unacknowledged use of published books or articles from periodicals, magazines, and newspapers. However, any unacknowledged use of another's ideas constitutes plagiarism; this includes the use of, among other things, papers written by other students, interviews radio or TV broadcasts, any published or unpublished materials (e.g. letters, pamphlets, leaflets, notes, or documents), and so forth. Some practices to avoid (because they can be considered plagiarism) and some examples of plagiarism can be found in Ann Raimés' *Keys for Writers* (4th ed., New York: Houghton Mifflin, 2005, 116-127).

Good writing and good scholarship require that you produce original work – in your own words. Anytime you use the work, the words, or the ideas of another you **must** acknowledge this use with a footnote or other reference. Adequate acknowledgement requires that in the case of printed materials the footnote or other reference be to the specific work utilized and that it include the exact page or pages containing the utilized material; a general reference to a work or a listing in a bibliography is not sufficient. When the borrowed idea is the result of private discussions – and even in assignments intended to involve collaboration with other students – there should be a footnote or a page of acknowledgements indicating with whom the ideas expressed in the paper have been discussed. For an explanation of the correct form for footnotes and endnotes, in-text references, and bibliographical references, see Raimés pp. 142-185.

Another form of cheating in regards to papers is to submit in one course a paper originally written for another course. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating in this or any other course, please contact your instructor before submitting any written work.

Department of Philosophy
Mount St. Mary's University

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Day	Reading	Assignment Due
R 8/25	Syllabus and Introduction Pojman, Introduction (1-12) – optional but highly recommended for those who have not taken PHIL 301 Moral Philosophy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register with TurnItIn.com Subscribe to ENN.com (Portal > Web Links) Posting on Forum
T 8/30	Down on the Factory Farm Singer, Chpt. 3 Fouts, Chpt. 1-2 Video: <i>Meet Your Meat</i>	Paper Proposal Due
R 9/1	Tools for Research Singer, Chpt. 2 Fouts, Chpt. 3 Video: <i>Unnecessary Fuss</i>	
T 9/6	The Moral Standing of Animals Singer Chpt. 1 Fouts, Chpt. 4-5 Optional: Henning 1 (Portal)	
R 9/8	Strawberry Hill Field Trip (2:00-6:00) Cost: \$3.00 Fouts, Chpt. 6 -7	
T 9/13	Man's Dominion Singer, Chpt. 5 Pojman, Sec. 1, Genesis 1-3 Pojman, Sec. 2, Lynn White Fouts, review Chpt. 3	
R 9/15	Stewardship Pojman, Sec. 4, Dobel, "The Judeo-Christian Stewardship Attitude to Nature" Clifford, "Foundations for a Catholic Ecological Theology of God" (Portal) Pope JP II, "The Ecological Crisis: A Common Responsibility" (Portal) Optional: USCCB, "Renewing the Earth" (Portal)	
T 9/20	The Ethics of Food Singer, Chpt. 4 & 6 (optional: Appendices 1-3) Pojman, Sec. 6, Kant, "Rational Beings Alone Have Moral Worth" Optional: Pojman, Sec. 54	
R 9/22	Getting Animals In Focus Midgley, <i>Animals and Why They Matter</i> , Foreword & Chpts. 1-2 Fouts, Chpt. 8-9	
T 9/27	Emotion, Emotiveness and Sentimentality Midgley, <i>Animals and Why They Matter</i> , Chpt. 3 Fouts, Chpt. 10-11	Paper 1 Due
R 9/29	The Rationalist Tradition Midgley, <i>Animals and Why They Matter</i> , Chpts. 4-5 Fouts, Chpt. 12	
T 10/4	Equality and Outer Darnkess Midgley, <i>Animals and Why They Matter</i> , Chpt. 6 Fouts, Chpt. 13-15	
R 10/6	Presentations	
10/8-10/16	Fall Break Midgley, <i>Animals and Why They Matter</i> , Chpts. 7-8	
T 10/18	Presentations	
R 10/20	Presentations	
T 10/25	The Mixed Community Midgley, <i>Animals and Why They Matter</i> , Chpts. 9-10	
R 10/27	What Can Matter to Us? Midgley, <i>Animals and Why They Matter</i> , Chpts. 11-13	Paper 2 Proposal

T 11/1	Does Nature Have Intrinsic Value? Pojman, Sec. 11, Rolston, "Naturalizing Values" Pojman, Sec. 12, Hettinger "Comments on Holmes Roston"	
R 11/3	Biocentric Ethics Pojman, Sec. 14, Schweitzer, "Reverence for Life" Pojman, Sec. 16, Goodpaster, "On Being Morally Considerable" Trip Preparation – Presentation by Mr. McVeary	
T 11/8	Preservation of Species, Nature, and Natural Objects Pojman, Sec. 29-30	
R 11/10	Preservation of Species, Nature, and Natural Objects Pojman, Sec. 31-32	
F 11/11	<i>Caving Field Trip (2:00-12:00) Cost: \$10.00</i>	
T 11/15	Preservation of Species, Nature, and Natural Objects Pojman, Sec. 33-34	
R 11/17	Obligations to Future Generations Pojman, Chpt. 6 (Sec. 40-43)	
T 11/22	Population Pojman, Sec. 44, 46, 49	
11/23- 11/27	Thanksgiving	
T 11/29	Pollution Pojman, 453-455 Pojman, Sec.55, 59	Paper 2
R 12/1	Global Warming Pojman, Chpt. 11 (all)	
T 12/6	Environmental Justice Pojman, Sec.72, 73	
R 12/8	Sustainable Development Pojman, Sec. 82	
T 12/13		<i>Final Exam 12:00-2:00</i>