Environmental Ethics
Spring 2018 – PHIL 255

Instructor: Makmiller Pedroso
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Office hours: TuTh 5:00PM–6:00PM
Lectures: TuTh 3:30PM - 4:45PM
Room: Liberal Arts 2110

Course description

This course examines the moral obligations humans might have towards present and future generations, and to the non-human environment, including other species and ecosystems.

Core Curriculum Course Learning Outcomes

1. Gather and analyze evidence from a variety of sources pertinent to the issue under study, including materials that might support opposing points of view.

2. Evaluate the logic of persuasive rhetoric in arguments for all major positions on a topic and formulate cogent counter-arguments to each one.

3. Articulate an understanding of the ethical dimensions of significant issues or dilemmas under study.

4. Construct and assess possible solutions to problems or dilemmas within an informed ethical and societal context.

5. Communicate arguments and conclusions effectively and clearly.

Required text

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings and their due dates can be accessed from the link:

http://makp.gitlab.io/teaching/schedule-phil255.html

Top Hat

We will be using the Top Hat (www.tophat.com) classroom response system in class. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

You can visit the Top Hat Overview within the Top Hat Success Center which outlines how you will register for a Top Hat account, as well as providing a brief overview to get you up and running on the system.

Top Hat will require a paid subscription, and a full breakdown of all subscription options available can be found here: https://www.tophat.com/pricing.

After you register for a Top Hat account, you will need to enter the join code for our class. The join code is 452428.

Graded work

There will be in-class questions and three exams. Exams and in-class questions will consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions based on the readings and class lectures. In-class questions will be submitted via Top Hat. All exams will be given during class sessions. Your final grade will be computed as follows:

Date	Graded work	Value
Mar. 1	Exam #1 (Modules 1 and 2)	30%
Apr. 12	Exam #2 (Module 3)	30%
May 17	Exam #3 (Modules 4 and 5)	30%
–	In-class questions	10%

Grading scheme

Letter grades are defined as follows:

A	94–100	C+	77–79
A-	90–93	C	70–76
B+	87–89	D+	65–69
B	83–86	D	60–64
B-	80–82	F	59 and lower

Schedule

Date	Topics
Weeks 1-2	Module 1: Introduction to Ethics
Weeks 3-5	Module 2: Global Poverty
Mar. 1	**Exam #1 (Modules 1 and 2)**
Weeks 6-10	Module 3: The Problem of the Commons
Apr. 12	**Exam #2 (Module 3)**
Weeks 11-12	Module 4: Animal Welfare
Weeks 13-16	Module 5: Wilderness Preservation
May 17	**Exam #3 (Modules 4 and 5)**

Academic Policies

Missed graded work

If you miss any graded work, including exams, you must provide a medical note or other formal documentation within one week if you wish to make up missed work. Otherwise, a grade of 0 will be recorded.

Attendance Policy

Attendance to class is expected.

Academic Honesty

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. All acts of academic dishonesty will be penalized according to the Student Academic Integrity Policy:

https://inside.towson.edu/generalcampus/tupolicies/index.cfm

Disability Accommodation

This course is in compliance with Towson University policies for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with Disability Support Services (DSS), 7720 York Road, Suite 232, 410-704-2638 (Voice) or 410-704-4423 (TDD). Students who expect that they have a disability but do not have documentation are encouraged to contact DSS for advice on how to obtain appropriate evaluation. A memo from DSS authorizing your accommodation is needed before any accommodation can be made. For more information about DSS, please visit their website:

http://www.towson.edu/dss/

Policy on Repeating the Course

This course may be repeated only once without the prior permission from the Academic Standards Committee.