



## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Environmental Studies 201**

**Environmental Ethics**

**3 CREDITS**

**PREPARED BY: Matthew Cameron, Instructor**

**DATE: December 1, 2020**

**APPROVED BY: Name, Title**

**DATE: Click or tap to enter a date**

**APPROVED BY SENATE: Click or tap to enter a date**

**RENEWED BY SENATE: Click or tap to enter a date**



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### Environmental Ethics

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<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b> Matthew Cameron	<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b> By appointment (Zoom)
<b>OFFICE LOCATION:</b> N/A	<b>CLASSROOM:</b> Zoom
<b>E-MAIL:</b> mcameron@yukonu.ca	<b>CLASS TIME:</b> Tuesdays 4:00- 5:30pm
<b>TELEPHONE:</b> (867)-668-8770 (Admin. Assistant)	<b>DATES:</b> Jan. 4 – Apr. 13, 2021

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#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of contemporary issues in environmental ethics. Topics may include: animal rights, the intrinsic value of nature, 'deep ecology', obligations to future generations, conservation, ecofeminism, environmental justice, economics and ecology, climate change, as well as relevant background materials in ethical theory. The class will provide students with the theoretical foundation required to examine environmental problems in ethical terms.

#### PREREQUISITES

Second year standing in the School of Liberal Arts.

#### RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Zoom account

#### EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

CAMO PHIL 204 (3)	UBCV PHIL 2nd (3)
SFU PHIL 1XX (3)	UNBC ENVS 2XX (3)
TRU PHIL 2XXX (3)	UVIC PHIL 2XX (1.5)
TWU PHIL 2XX (3)	

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Identify and critically evaluate various ethical frameworks for understanding environmental issues.
2. Evaluate contemporary global and northern environmental problems from an ethical perspective.
3. Explain their own ethical orientation toward environmental issues.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of major debates in the field of environmental philosophy;
5. Communicate effectively in writing and oral presentations about ethical and moral issues.

## COURSE FORMAT

Due to COVID-19 and physical distancing recommendations from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, this course is being taught online using a variety of materials, activities, and technical solutions. You will need to visit the course Moodle site and participate in online activities and discussions as assigned and scheduled.

There are no in-person meetings scheduled for this course and you will work on your own schedule. Students will be assigned readings and other course materials (e.g., podcasts, videos) as well as a flexible schedule of assignments to complete (see below for details), and the class will meet once a week via Zoom to check in and discuss. Students will be responsible for completing assigned readings, materials and assignments on schedule, and participating in online group discussion (via Zoom and Moodle).

## ASSESSMENTS

### Participation

Participation in weekly Zoom meetings is strongly recommended. Students are expected to read materials according to the schedule (see below) and actively participate in online group discussions (via Zoom and Moodle). Moodle includes online group discussion forums where students are encouraged to share their thoughts and opinions on the material, raise questions, and discuss key concepts with the class. Specific topics may be assigned for group discussion as well. Sending thoughts and questions via email to the instructor can also contribute to your participation grade.

### Assignments

Students will be assessed on the basis of short written assignments (3 in total), one policy submission (1000 words), one essay (2000 words), one final assignment, as well as active participation in online group discussions (via Zoom and Moodle).

***NOTE:*** Late assignments will be penalized by 5% per day to a maximum of 7 days, after which they will not be accepted unless there is a legitimate excuse approved by the instructor in advance of the deadline.

### Tests

There are no scheduled tests for this course.

## EVALUATION

Participation	10%
Assignments	30% (10% each)
Policy submission	15%
Essay	25%
Final Assignment	20%
Total	100 %

## **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS**

Selected readings and materials (e.g., podcasts, videos) will be made available online (Moodle). See Reading Schedule below.

## **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT**

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the current Academic Regulations that are posted on the Student Services/ Admissions & Registration web page.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when a student submits work for credit that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, without citing the source from which the material is taken. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of work, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Students may use sources which are public domain or licensed under Creative Commons; however, academic documentation standards must still be followed. Except with explicit permission of the instructor, resubmitting work which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the University.

## **YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY**

Yukon University recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon University program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see [www.yukonu.ca/yfnccr](http://www.yukonu.ca/yfnccr).

## ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, they should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): [lac@yukonu.ca](mailto:lac@yukonu.ca).

### COURSE AND READING SCHEDULE

**Note:** The schedule is subject to revision. All readings are available on Moodle.

Week	Dates	Topics/Assignments	Readings & Other Info
1	Jan 4–10	Introduction to Environmental Ethics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Suzuki and Holy Dressel, “Bigfoot”</li> <li>Andrew Kernohan, “Introduction to Environmental Ethics”; “Metaethics”</li> </ul>
2	Jan 10–17	Ethical Theory: Ethical Egoism & Consequentialism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew Kernohan, “Ethical Egoism”; “Utilitarianism”</li> </ul>
3	Jan 18–24	Ethical Theory: Virtue Ethics, Rights & Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew Kernohan, “Virtue Ethics”; “Rights”; “Justice”</li> </ul>
3	Jan 19	<i>Zoom meeting</i>	*First meeting of course* Zoom link posted on Moodle
3	Jan 24	<b>Written Assign. #1</b>	<b>Due: Sunday, Jan. 24 via Moodle</b>
4	Jan 25–31	Environmental Ethics: Roots of the Ecological Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lynn White Jr., “The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis”</li> <li>Clive Ponting, “Ways of Thought”</li> </ul>
4	Jan 26	<i>Zoom meeting</i>	Zoom link posted on Moodle
5	Feb 1–7	Environmental Ethics: Roots of the Ecological Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aldo Leopold, “Thinking Like A Mountain”; “The Land Ethic”</li> <li>Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons”</li> </ul>
5	Feb 2	<i>Zoom meeting</i>	Zoom link posted on Moodle
5	Feb 7	<b>Written Assign. #2</b>	<b>DUE: SUNDAY, Feb. 14 via Moodle</b>



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6	Feb 8–14	Environmental Ethics: Preserving Wilderness Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Martin Kreiger, “What’s Wrong with Plastic Trees?”</li> <li>• Eric Katz, “The Call of the Wild”</li> <li>• Andrew Light, “Ecological Restoration and the Culture of Nature”</li> <li>• William Devenan, “The Pristine Myth”</li> </ul>
6	Feb 9	<i>Zoom meeting</i>	Zoom link posted on Moodle
7	Feb 15–21	Environmental Ethics: Moving Beyond Anthropocentrism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Singer, “All Animals Are Equal”</li> <li>• Christopher Stone, “Should Trees Have Standing?”</li> </ul>
7	Feb 16	<i>Zoom meeting</i>	Zoom link posted on Moodle
8	Feb 22–28	Environmental Ethics: Moving Beyond Anthropocentrism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Sagoff, “Animal Liberation and Environmental Ethics: Bad Marriage, Quick Divorce”</li> <li>• Andrew Kernohan, “Deep Ecology”</li> </ul>
8	Feb 23	<i>Zoom meeting</i>	Zoom link posted on Moodle
9	Mar 1–7	Environmental Ethics: Population and Consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ronald Sandler, “Global Justice: Population, Poverty and the Environment”</li> </ul>
9		<b>Essay</b>	<b>Due: Monday, Mar. 1</b>
9	Mar 2	<i>Zoom meeting</i>	Zoom link posted on Moodle
10	Mar 8–14	Environmental Ethics: Ecology and Economics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andrew Kernohan, “Ethics and Economics”; “Free-Market Environmentalism”</li> <li>• David Suzuki and Holly Dressel, “Follow the Money”</li> </ul>
10	Mar 9	<i>Zoom meeting</i>	Zoom link posted on Moodle
10	Mar 14	<b>Written Assign. #3</b>	<b>Due: Sunday, Mar. 14</b>

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11	Mar 15–21	Environmental Ethics: Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stephen Gardiner, “Ethics and Global Climate Change” (excerpt); “A Perfect Moral Storm”</li> <li>• Andrew Kernohan, “Precautionary Principles”</li> </ul>
11	Mar 16	<i>Zoom meeting</i>	Zoom link posted on Moodle
12	Mar 22–28	Environmental Ethics: Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNESCO Report, “The Ethical Implications of Global Climate Change”</li> <li>• Naomi Klein, “Capitalism vs. The Climate”</li> </ul>
12	Mar 23	<i>Zoom meeting</i>	Zoom link posted on Moodle
13	Mar 29	<b>Policy Submission</b>	<b>Due: Monday, Mar. 29</b>
13	Mar 29–Apr 4	Review	
13	Mar 30	<i>Zoom meeting</i>	<i>If required</i>
14	Apr 5–11	Review (Continued)	
14	Apr 6	<i>Zoom meeting</i>	<i>If required</i>
16	Apr 13	<b>FINAL ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>DUE: TUESDAY, Apr. 13</b>

*If you have any questions, concerns or feedback about the course, please contact me at [mcameron@yukonu.ca](mailto:mcameron@yukonu.ca)*