

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS**

THRS 404-01 / ENVA 404-01

Kalmanovitz Hall 111

Intersession 2010

MTWRF 1-6pm

**Instructor:** Elizabeth McAnally

**Email:** [eamcanally@usfca.edu](mailto:eamcanally@usfca.edu)

**Office hours:** MTWRF 12:30-1pm

or by appointment

### **Course Description:**

This course explores ethical underpinnings of contemporary attitudes and practices concerning the environment and the human/nature relationship. The course is introductory and is designed to give students an overview of major players in current debates concerning the environment. By the end of the course, students should (1) be conversant with major ethical perspectives, both historical and contemporary, on the human relationship with the natural world, (2) be able to identify ethical or religious underpinnings of factions within the contemporary environmental movement, and (3) be able to think and write critically about current environmental issues.

### **Required Texts:**

Berry, Thomas. *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*. Bell Tower, 1999.

Gudorf, Christine E. and James E. Huchingson. *Boundaries: A Casebook in Environmental Ethics*. Georgetown University Press, 2003.

Leopold, Aldo. *A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There*. Oxford University Press, 1949.

- Additional readings are available online.

### **Course Requirements:**

Attendance & Participation	20%
Presentation	10%
Midterm Exam	15%
Fieldwork Paper	15%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	20%

### **Grading Scale:**

A = 94-100	B = 84-86	C = 74-76	F = 0-59
A- = 90-93	B- = 90-83	C- = 70-73	
B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D = 60-69	

## **Description of Requirements**

**Attendance & Participation:** Active and informed participation is essential. Students must enter the classroom prepared to discuss the readings and engage in dialogue with each other and the instructor. You are encouraged to be on time to class since being tardy can be disruptive to others in the class.

You are expected to attend class unless you are ill or there is a crisis in your family. In the case of an absence, it is the student's responsibility to gather class notes from other students. Excessive absences may affect the final grade or eligibility to sit for the final exam. Any student who misses 20% or more of classes will risk failing the course.

When representing USF in intercollegiate competition (e.g., athletics, debate), students will be excused from classes on the hours or days such competition takes them away from classes. However, such students will be responsible for advising their professors regarding anticipated absences and for arranging to complete course work for classes, laboratories, and/or examinations missed (USF General Catalog 2003-2005).

**Presentations:** Each student will give a presentation to the class, either individually or in groups of up to 4 students. Guidelines for presentations will be discussed in class.

**Fieldwork Paper:** All students are required to conduct fieldwork as part of the course, spending a minimum of 5 hours doing fieldwork related to course themes. Each student will write a 3-5 page typed paper based on fieldwork. Guidelines for the paper will be discussed in class. The fieldwork paper is due January 18.

**Research Paper:** Each student will write a 5-7 page typed paper based on a research topic. Guidelines for the paper will be discussed in class. The research paper is due January 24.

**Midterm and Final Exams:** The midterm and final exams will each consist of multiple choice and fill-in-the-blank questions.

**Academic Integrity:** Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students who plagiarize work risk failing the course and getting suspended from the university. Suspected cheating or plagiarism will be referred to the Committee on Student Academic Honesty. The Student Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures can be found online at [http://www.usca.edu/acadserv/catalog/policies\\_honesty](http://www.usca.edu/acadserv/catalog/policies_honesty).

**Note:** The instructor may edit this syllabus throughout the semester. Students will be notified of any changes in class.

## Course Schedule

Monday, January 4

### **Course Introduction**

Overview of class procedures, syllabus, and assignments, and an overview of the field of environmental ethics

Tuesday, January 5

### **Experiencing Nature: Narrative, Memory, and Place**

Readings:

“January Thaw” (Leopold, pp. 3-5)

“The Geese Return” (Leopold, pp. 18-23)

“Great Possessions” (Leopold, pp. 41-44)

“Prairie Birthday” (Leopold, pp. 44-50)

“The Green Pasture” (Leopold, pp. 51-52)

“Too Early” (Leopold, pp. 59-62)

“If I Were the Wind” (Leopold, pp. 66-67)

“Axe-in-Hand” (Leopold, pp. 67-73)

Wednesday, January 6

### **Rethinking Nature: Values of the Environment**

Readings:

“Marshland Elegy” (Leopold, pp. 95-101)

“Thinking like a Mountain” (Leopold, pp. 129-133)

“Escudilla” (Leopold, pp. 133-137)

“Song of the Gavilan” (Leopold, pp. 149-154)

“Clandeboye” (Leopold, pp. 158-162)

Thursday, January 7

**The Evolution of Ethics**

Readings:

“Conservation Esthetic” (Leopold, pp. 165-177)

“The Land Ethic” (Leopold, pp. 201-226)

Friday, January 8

**The Great Work**

Readings:

“Introduction” (Berry, pp. ix-xi)

“The Great Work” (Berry, pp. 1-11)

“The Meadow Across the Creek” (Berry, pp. 12-20)

Monday, January 11

**Theories and Concepts**

Readings:

“Theory in Environmental Ethics”  
(Gudorf & Huchingson, pp. 1-24)

“Environmental Ethics: An Overview” (J. Baird Callicott)  
<http://fore.research.yale.edu/disciplines/ethics/index.html>

Tuesday, January 12

**Religion, Science, and Ecofeminism**

Readings:

“Ethics and Ecology” (Berry, pp. 100-106)

“Four-Fold Wisdom” (Berry, pp. 176-195)

“Overview of World Religions and Ecology”  
(Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim)  
<http://fore.research.yale.edu/religion/>

“Ecofeminsim: An Overview”  
(Lois Ann Lorentzen and Heather Eaton)  
<http://fore.research.yale.edu/disciplines/gender/index.html>

~ Review for Midterm Exam ~

Wednesday, January 13

**Ecological Economics**

Readings:

“The Corporation Story” (Berry, pp. 117-135)

“The Extractive Economy” (Berry, pp. 136-149)

“Ecological Economics: A Short Description”  
(Richard B. Norgaard)

<http://fore.research.yale.edu/disciplines/economics/index.html>

~ Midterm Exam ~

Thursday, January 14

**Animals**

Readings:

“Nature Red in Tooth, Claw, and Bullet: Hunting and Human Presence in Nature” (Gudorf & Huchingson, pp. 191-206)

“A Communion of Subjects and a Multiplicity of Intelligences”  
(Mary Evelyn Tucker, pp. 645-647: PDF available online)

“The Dance of Awe” (Jane Goodall, pp. 651-656:  
PDF available online)

Friday, January 15

**Food**

Readings:

“Buddhist Food Practices and Attitudes Among Contemporary Western Practitioners” (Kristen Steele and Stephanie Kaza, pp. 49-67: PDF available online)

“Improving on Natural Variation? Genetically-Modified Foods”  
(Gudorf & Huchingson, pp. 177-190)

Monday, January 18

Martin Luther King Day Holiday (no class)

Assignment:

Fieldwork Paper due January 18

Tuesday, January 19

**Water**

Readings:

“River Run or River Ruined: Hydropower or Free-Flowing Rivers?” (Gudorf & Huchingson, pp. 130-145)

“Nature Creates Deserts, Too: Addressing Desertification in China” (Gudorf & Huchingson, pp. 146-159)

Pacific Institute website:

[http://www.pacinst.org/topics/water\\_and\\_sustainability/](http://www.pacinst.org/topics/water_and_sustainability/)

Wednesday, January 20

**Integral Environmental Ethics**

Readings:

“Interiority Regained: Integral Ecology and Environmental Ethics” (Michael Zimmerman, pp. 65-88)

<http://www.integralecology.org/sites/default/files/interiority-regained.pdf>

Integral Ecology Center website: <http://www.integralecology.org>

Thursday, January 21

**Envisioning the Future**

Readings:

“Reinventing the Human” (Berry, pp. 159-165)

“The Dynamics of the Future” (Berry, pp. 166-175)

“Moments of Grace” (Berry, pp. 196-201)

~ Review for Final Exam ~

Friday, January 22

**Final Exam**

Assignment:

Research Paper due January 24