

SYLLABUS
Environmental Ethics and Policy
Summer 2007, The University of Montana
On-line July 1- 24
Face-to-Face August 6-10

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Text: **Environmental Ethics: An Anthology**
eds. A. Light and H. Rolston III (Blackwell Publishing, 2003)

Summary of Class and Requirements:

What role can philosophy play in meeting the overwhelming challenge of environmental degradation and the human response (or responsibility?) to that degradation? Has the emerging field of environmental ethics been of use in meeting this challenge, or is philosophy too theoretically oriented to contribute to the resolution of such practical problems? This class will serve as a foundation to discussion of these issues with a focus on contemporary environmental moral and political theories, as well as the general use of philosophical methods in broader environmental questions. We will read and discuss a variety of philosophical debates which have evolved over the past thirty years (primarily in Europe and North America) among philosophers answering the call to develop a new, environmental, ethic. Topics to be covered include individual versus collective approaches to moral consideration of the environment; varieties of approaches to the challenging of articulating a non instrumental value to nature, and the question of whether environmental ethics should embrace some form of moral pluralism. We will then move on to examine critiques of the dominant schools of thought in environmental ethics focusing on challenges raised by deep ecologists, pragmatists and feminists. We will conclude with a look at how these challenges effect five on the ground debates regarding environmental policy, including the question of whether we should try to restore the nature we have damaged and whether it makes sense any more to attempt to preserve areas as "wilderness."

Requirements for the course for all students will be one paper on a topic of your choice relevant to the class material due after the completion of the class. The topic of this paper must be given prior approval either during the week of the class or afterward over e-mail. If requested a paper topic can be assigned by the instructor. Participants may also submit rough drafts of the final paper for comments and suggestions for improvements up to one week prior to the final due date of the paper.

Appeals of any grades must be made in writing, providing a detailed argument for why a grade should be increased.

Reading and Discussion Schedule*

Monday, August 6

Morning: *What is Environmental Ethics?*

Light & Rolston, p. 1 and Palmer, p. 15

Afternoon: *Who Counts in an Environmental Ethics?*
Problems with Holism

Individualism: Singer, p. 55

Holism: Katz, p. 85

Is Hunting a Problem?: Varner, p. 95

Tuesday August 7

Morning: *Is Nature Intrinsically Valuable?*

Nonanthropocentrism: Rolston, p. 131

Weak Anthropocentrism: Norton, p. 163

Afternoon: *Is There Only One Environmental Ethic? & Recovering Pluralism*
Pluralism and Its Critic: Stone, p. 193 and Callicott, p. 203
Light, p. 229

Wednesday, August 8

Morning: *Alternatives Deep Ecology, Ecofeminsm & Pragmatism*
Fox, p. 252 and Naess, p. 262

Gaard & Gruen, p. 276 and Warren and Cheney, p. 294
Pragmatism

Weston, p. 307 and Minter & Manning, p. 319

Thursday August 9

Morning: *Issue 1: Sustainability*

Scherer, p. 334 and Jamieson, p. 371

Afternoon:

2:30-6:00: *Issues 2 – Restoration Ecology*

Elliot, p. 381, Katz, p. 390 and Light, p. 398

Friday August 10

Morning: *Issues 3 – Wilderness Preservation*

Nelson, p. 413 (recommended), Callicott, p. 437 and Noss, p. 444

Afternoon: *Issues 4 – Feeding People vs. Saving Nature & Human Rights and Environmental Justice*

Rolston, p. 451 and Attfield, p. 463

Nickel & Viola, p. 472 and Hartley, p. 478

Final Paper Due Date to Be Announced

* Readings are listed by author's last name and the first page of the assigned chapter.