

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department:	School of Liberal Arts
Programme:	Various
FHEQ Level:	5
Course Title:	Environmental Ethics: Green Principles
Course Code:	ENV 5100
Total Hours:	120
Timetabled Hours:	45
Guided Learning Hours:	0
Independent Learning Hours:	75
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

This course is designed to develop students' understanding of the concepts of environmental ethics through an analysis of historical and modern issues. The role of humans within nature and anthropogenic effects upon nature will be discussed along with typical environmental issues such as climate change, pollution, population issues, energy issues, conservation, women in the environment, and animal rights.

Prerequisites: ARW 4195 or GEP 4180

Aims and Objectives:

The course aims to provide an understanding of environmental ethics through the use of formal lecture and seminars. Weekly seminars based around assigned reading are designed to allow students to develop a critical knowledge of the issues of environmental ethics through directed discussion and conversation, with the ultimate aim of allowing students to develop a better understanding of the world humans have created and continue to affect, and their own impact upon the environment. The course aims to allow students to develop enough understanding of the environmental issues presented that they can also begin to understand how detrimental anthropogenic affects upon the environment, while complex, can have solutions.

Programme Outcomes:

A3, B2, B4, C3

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Students should have a detailed understanding of the terminology used in ethics, and in particular, environmental ethics.
- Students should be able to demonstrate a detailed understanding of environmental ethics ideas put forward by noted and respected figures.
- Students should be able to demonstrate a detailed understanding of the major themes of environmental ethics.
- Students should be able to complete assigned work with a level of technical competence, clarity, and critical thinking commensurate with a 5000 level course.

Indicative Content:

- Terminology associated with ethics and environmental ethics.
- The roots of environmental ethics and the current ecological crisis.
- The major themes of environmental ethics such as (but not limited to):
 - Ecological Ethics
 - Animal Rights and Liberation
 - Ecofeminism
 - Endangered and Invasive Species
 - Wilderness and Conservation Biology
 - Overpopulation, Growth and Consumption
 - Climate change and Energy Issues
 - Urbanisation
 - Environmentalism

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, classroom discussion and conversation. Each week will generally be divided into one class of formal lecture in order to present ethical issues and concepts, followed by a seminar class where students are guided through discussion based activities in small groups through the use of pre-assigned reading assignments coupled with directed questions. Discussion of ethical concepts and issues is an essential part of the learning process with the aim that students develop not only a sound knowledge of the basics of environmental ethics, but also the ability to form opinions and create supported arguments. Students are expected to come to seminar classes **prepared**.

- a) Formal lectures with PowerPoint and handouts.
- b) Class Seminar and discussion.
- c) Reading assignments.

Indicative Text(s):

'Environmental Ethics', 2nd Edition, David Schmidtz and Elizabeth Willot, 2012, Oxford University Press

Journals

Web Sites

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Programme Outcomes to reflect new Liberal Arts programme	February 2018	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	
