

Environmental Ethics (Fall 2016, 2015)

In this course, we will employ philosophical methodology to study contemporary issues relating to the natural environment. In the first part of the course, we will focus on ethical questions such as "Why is the environmental valuable?", "What attitude should we take towards nature?", and "What parts of nature have value and why?". Furthermore, we will discuss selected economic aspects of environmentalism. In the second part of the course, we will focus on the ethics of climate change. Topics include: obligations towards future generations, temporal discounting of well-being, climate change and risk, collective-v-individual obligations.

Readings

Part I: Animal Rights

Singer – *All animals are equal*
Regan – *The case of animal rights*
Carruthers – *Against the moral standing of animals*

Part II: Environmental Theory

Leopold – *The land ethic*
Varner – *Biocentric individualism*
Sagoff – *Environmental ethics and animal liberation*
Sober – *Philosophical problems of environmentalism*

Part III: Economic Issues

Hardin – *Tragedy of the commons*
Singer – *Famine, affluence, and morality*
Rolston – *Feeding people versus saving nature*
Goodland – *The case that the world has reached its limits*
Simon – *Can the supply of resources really be infinite?*

Part IV: Climate Change

Dessler – *Introduction to modern climate change*
Gardiner – *The perfect moral storm*
Parfit – *Energy policy and the further future*
Shue – *Deadly delays, saving opportunities*
Caney – *Cosmopolitan justice*
Broome – *Discounting the future*
Singer – *One atmosphere*
Sinnott-Armstrong – *It's not my fault – global warming and individual moral responsibility*
Kagan – *Do I make a difference?*