Philosophy and the Environment
PHIL 333 A01  Spring 2015
CRN 22362

Instructor: Thomas Heyd, Ph.D.
Office Clearihue B 309
Office Hours Tue 2:30-3:20, Fri 4:00-4:50, or by appointment
Tel. and e-mail (250) 853 3767, heydt@uvic.ca
Meeting times TWF 13:30-14:20
Classroom COR 135

Course description
Focus
This course aims to provide students with the conceptual tools to think about the relation of humans to nature, and about the philosophical responses to the environmental crises of the 20th and 21st centuries.

We begin by surveying some of the diverse ways in which nature and the relation of humans to nature have been seen throughout the history of philosophy. The responsibilities for humans that follow from those relationships will be considered. After this we examine philosophical conceptualisations of, and responses to, 20th century and contemporary environmental crises. One aim of the course will be to take note of the diverse ways in which the historical philosophical heritage is applied to resolve human-environmental quandaries.

Outcomes
It is expected that students will find themselves equipped with sufficient conceptual tools to address environmental issues in a sophisticated way that may also become useful in practical contexts.

Texts
Required texts: COURSEPACK. Most texts are on Coursespaces. Some material may be placed in the Reserve Room in the McPherson Library.

Requirements
Grading
Mid-term test, worth 30%
A final, comprehensive, take-home exam, worth 50%
Participation, including course journal, worth 20%

1. The mid-term test will cover both readings and lectures. Both understanding and recall of material covered, and reflective analysis, will be expected. Test and exam questions may be a combination of short answer, long answer, true-false and multiple choice questions.

2. The final exam will be a comprehensive take-home exam with short answer and long answer questions. Questions will be handed out on the last day of classes, and the completed exam must be brought to the Department of Philosophy no later than 5 days after exam questions hand-out, before 3:30 p.m. Late exams will NOT be accepted (late exams will receive 0%). Exams also have to be submitted simultaneously through Coursespaces. Understanding of material covered and reflective analysis will be expected. Answers will be assessed on the basis of the following three criteria: (1) accurate presentation of the views discussed, (2) presentation of valid arguments, (3) effective and correct use of the English language.
3. **Participation** is assessed on the basis of a) *regular attendance*, b) *constructive participation in class discussion*, and c) *weekly worksheets* based on the course readings and personal analysis of the issues under discussion. Class interventions should be constructive. Attendance will be *particularly encouraged* during class presentations, debates, visits of guest speakers, and for films. Justified absences should be discussed with the instructor ahead of time. Debates will count extra for class participation.

**Other matters**

**Numerical and letter grades**

Grades will be given as percentile marks. The percentile mark for the course relates to letter grades as follows: A+ = 90 - 100, A = 85 - 89, A- = 80 - 84, B+ = 75 - 79, B = 70 - 74, B- = 65 - 69, C+ = 60 - 64, C = 55 - 59, D = 50 - 54, F = 0 – 49. The A range means exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. A grade in the B range means a very good, good and solid performance. A grade in the C range means satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory, performance. A grade of D or D- indicates merely passable or marginal performance. An F indicates unsatisfactory performance.

**Late assignments, extensions and plagiarism**

Late assignments will not be accepted and exams will not be rescheduled without significant, reasons of a medical sort (provide medical certificate) or for other serious, documented personal reasons. Requests for exceptions must be received in writing and no more than ten days after the deadline or exam missed. Academic honesty will be expected. Plagiarism may lead to dismissal from the course and the university. Any matters not covered in this handout will be handled in accordance with University and Department policies. Please familiarize yourself with them.

**Other**

Students who are new to the University, and would like assistance, may contact the Transition Office, [www.uvic.ca/transition](http://www.uvic.ca/transition). This course is committed to inclusivity and diversity, in line with UVic policy.

**Schedule**

Please note that this schedule is subject to changes. Please be attentive to announcements in class and on Coursespaces. Students are urged to read texts in advance so as to facilitate participation in class discussion. Texts are to be downloaded from Coursespaces, unless otherwise indicated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Texts/Coursepack</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>Jonas, TBA (texts on Coursespaces)</td>
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| 5-11 Jan | **Nature in traditional societies and in Ancient Philosophy** | TBA (texts on Coursespaces)  
  **Film clip: Cave of Forgotten Dreams** |
| 2     | **Nature in the Christian context**  | White, Passmore (Coursepack!)  
  21 Jan, Last day for adding courses that begin in the second term |
| 19-25 Jan | **Nature in the Early Modern context and Daoist counterpoint** | TBA (texts on Coursespaces)  
  *Tao Te Ching*, Goodman (Coursepack!) |
| 3     | **Nature in the Early Modern and 19th century context** | TBA (texts on Coursespaces)  
  **Mid-term in-class test on last class day of the week (Friday)** |
Week 6  
9-15 Feb  
**READING WEEK**  
9 February **Family Day**  
No new readings, no worksheets

Week 7  
16-22 Feb  
**Environmental Crisis and Responses I**  
Myers, Baxter, Naess, Hardin, Monbiot

Week 8  
23 Feb – 1 Mar  
**Environmental Crisis and Responses II**  
Leopold, Warren, Bookchin  
28 February: Last day for withdrawing from courses without penalty of failure

Week 9  
2-8 Mar  
**The Aesthetic Dimension**  
Elliott, Carlson, Feenberg,  
Optional supplementary: Humphrey (on Coursespaces), Marcuse  
Possible guest speaker (TBA)

Week 10  
9-15 Mar  
**Global Environmental Crises and Responses I**  
Sylvan-Plumwood, Lovelock, Garvey  
TBA (texts on Coursespaces)  
*Film: Uranium*

Week 11  
16-22 Mar  
**Global Environmental Crises and Responses II**  
Hawken, Klein  
*Film: A Cut Above: My Grandfather Was a Logger* (To be confirmed)

Week 12  
23-29 Mar  
**Global Environmental Crises and Responses III**  
Serres, Homer-Dixon  
TBA (texts on Coursespaces)

Week 13  
30 Mar – 5 Apr  
**Review and Course Experience Survey**  
1 April: Last Day of Classes!  
**Final take-home exam questions handed out**

Week 14  
6-12 Apr  
***Final exam should be submitted to the Dept of Philosophy, on 6 April before 3:30 p.m. AND Coursespaces***