

ENVS 345

## Environmental Ethics

Fall 2018  
M/W 10-11:20

276 Lokey Education  
CRN: 12253

Instructor: Paul Guernsey  
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### Course Description:

This course aims to challenge common conceptions of what it means to be an environmentalist by introducing some radical perspectives found in Native American philosophy, animal liberation, vegan feminism, ecocentrism, ecological socialism, black agrarianism, environmental justice, ecofeminism, and migrant studies. If environmental science asks questions about what nature *is* and how it functions, environmental ethics asks questions about how humans *should* relate to each other and non-human nature in the context of social and environmental problems.

### Course Readings:

Available on Canvas

### Course Requirements:

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| 1. Discussion Section Participation/Attendance | 20% |
| 2. Two Essays (20% each)                       | 40% |
| 3. Midterm and Final Exams (20% each)          | 40% |

#### ➤ **Discussion Section Attendance**

Show up to section prepared and ready to discuss the readings.

#### ➤ **Essays:**

Two essays of 900 - 1200 words each (about 3-4 pages) will be required in response to essay questions posted on Canvas. Make sure to read all instructions carefully to ensure that you answer the questions directly and thoroughly. Essays must be submitted through Canvas. Each essay will be worth 20% of your final grade.

#### **Grading rubric for essays:**

A = Excellent. No mistakes, well-written, and distinctive in some way or other.

B = Good. No significant mistakes, well-written, but not distinctive in any way.

C = Okay. Some errors, but a basic grasp of the material.

D = Poor. Significant errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.

F = Failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or a complete lack of effort.

- **Midterm and final exams:** Exams will draw from material assigned as readings or discussed in class. A list of review terms and concepts will be posted on Canvas one week prior to the exam date. Exams will include a mix of true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions. The final will include only material covered after the midterm. Each exam will be worth 20% of the final course grade.

### Course Policies:

- **Late Work:** Any late work will be marked down unless an extension is provided by the instructor ahead of time.
- **Plagiarism:** There are several types of “academic misconduct” or plagiarism: (1) Copying sentences or phrases without giving proper citation, (2) Paraphrasing work without giving proper citation, (3) Copying the work of other students, (4) Copying your own work from previous courses, (5) Having other people do coursework for you. Most instances of plagiarism will result in failing the course or assignment and being reported to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards.

Please see this link for more thorough explanations:

<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/>

- **Sexual Harassment/Violence:** No sexual misconduct will be tolerated in the context of this course. Please be aware that all UO employees are mandatory reporters. This means that if you tell me or your GE about a situation, we may have to report the information to our supervisor or the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. Although we have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need. If you wish to speak to someone confidentially, you can call 541-346-SAFE, UO’s 24-hour hotline, to be connected to a confidential counselor to discuss your options. You can also visit the SAFE website at [safe.uoregon.edu](http://safe.uoregon.edu).

### **Week 1: Racism and Environmentalism**

#### **Monday, 9/24: What is Environmental Ethics? – Introduction**

Jedediah Purdy, “Environmentalism’s Racist History”

(<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/environmentalisms-racist-history>)

#### **Wednesday, 9/26: Ecocide and Genocide**

Grinde and Johansen, *Ecocide of Native America*: “Introduction”

### **Week 2: Native Environmental Philosophy**

#### **Monday, 10/1: Native Ecology**

Grinde and Johansen, *Ecocide of Native America*, “Native Americans: America’s First Ecologists?”

**Wednesday 10/3: A Native Conception of Persons**  
Norton-Smith, "An Expansive Conception of Persons"

**Week 3: Defining the Moral Community**

**Monday 10/8: Indigenous Peoples' Day**

**Animal Liberation in the Western Tradition**

Aristotle, selection from *Politics*

Descartes, selections

Kant, "Rational Beings Alone Have Moral Worth"

Singer, "A Utilitarian Defense of Animal Liberation"

**Wednesday 10/10: Meat and Gender**

Adams, "*The Sexual Politics of Meat*"

**Week 4: Conservationism and Colonialism**

**Monday 10/15: Ecocentrism**

PAPER ONE DUE

Leopold, "The Land Ethic"

**Wednesday, 10/17: American Indian Views of Land, Biodiversity and Culture**

Bunge, "Land is a Feeling (Two Views)" (pp. 114-128)

Whyte, "Indigenous North American Ethics and Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic: A Critical View of Comparison and Collaboration"

**Week 5: Decolonization, Capitalism, and Imperialism**

**Monday, 10/22: Anticolonialism**

Tuck and Yang, "Decolonization is not a metaphor" (pp. 129-168)

**Wednesday 10/24: Classic Marxism**

Marx, *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*, "Estranged Labor"

Marx, *Capital Volume I*, "Modern Industry and Agriculture" from *Capital*

Hilferding, *Finance Capital*, "The proletariat and imperialism"

**Week 6: Ecological Socialism**

**Monday, 10/29:**

In-Class Film: *Standing on Sacred Ground*

**Wednesday, 10/31: MIDTERM EXAM**

**Week 7: Capitalism, Black Agrarianism**

**Monday, 11/5: Socialism**

Foster, Clark, York, *The Ecological Rift*, "Introduction"

York, "Do alternative energy sources displace fossil fuels?"

**Wednesday, 11/7: Environmental Legacies of Slavery**

Du Bois, "The Quest for the Golden Fleece"

**Week 8: Agriculture cont...**

**Monday 11/12: Peasant Food Webs**

Shiva, "Hunger by Design"

ETC Group, "Who Will Feed Us?" \*skim this reading for main points\*

**Wednesday 11/14: Migrant Labor**

Holmes, "Fresh Fruit"

**Week 9: Environmental Justice**

**Monday 11/19:**

PAPER TWO DUE

In-class Film: *The Garden*

**Wednesday 11/21: Environmental Racism**

Cole and Foster, "Introduction" and "Environmental Racism" in *From the Ground Up*

**Week Ten: Gender and the Environment**

**Monday, 11/26: Eco-feminism**

Waring, "A Woman's Reckoning"

**Wednesday, 11/28:**

In-class Film: *Who's Counting? Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies, and Global Economics*

**FINAL EXAM:** 10:15am Monday December 3rd, Lokey Education 276 (our regular classroom)