

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Fall 9-1-2007

EVST 427E.01: Environmental Ethics

Deborah Slicer

University of Montana - Missoula, deborah.slicer@umontana.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Slicer, Deborah, "EVST 427E.01: Environmental Ethics" (2007). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 11069.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/11069>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Philosophy/Evst 427: Environmental Ethics
Fall 2007
Dr. Deborah Slicer
L.A. 148/243-2527/deborah.slicer@umontana.edu
O.H.: tba

Are the moral traditions that were developed to guide human relations also relevant to interspecies relations? If so, to what extent are they relevant? If not, is it because the theories are ultimately anthropocentric, as some critics argue? Or are they problematic for other reasons? If our traditions fail to justify the interspecies obligations we have gut feelings about, then what other moral visions can we appeal to? And, importantly, how is environmental philosophy—all this academic theorizing—relevant to our environmental crisis?

To start, we'll talk about what it means for our environmental crisis to be a *moral* crisis. Then we'll read essays by theorists who attempt to extend traditional moral principles to guide our behavior toward nature. We'll also consider criticisms of these attempts. Deep ecologists, ecofeminists, and social ecologists try to articulate radically nontraditional ways of thinking about our moral relations to nature. We focus on that literature during the second half of the term. The last three days or so of class feature group presentations of local environmental issues. Guidelines are forthcoming. Presentations include the groups' efforts to justify policy recommendations using class materials. This is when we test the theories against the "real world."

The prerequisite for this course is Philosophy 200, Introductory Ethics, or an equivalent. This prerequisite will be strictly enforced.

Syllabus

8/28 Hello

30 Case studies; Fundamentals of Environmental Philosophy (FEP), chpts 1 & 2

9/4 FEP, Hill, p. 338

6 "Elephant Crackup?" (x)

11 Misfits, film

13 Misfits, "The Old Way," Elizabeth Marshall Thomas (x)

18 discussion of Misfits, Crackup, The Old Way

20 FEP, Norton, p. 326

25 FEP, Singer, p. 150; "Animals—Property or Persons?" Gary Francione (x)

27 FEP, Regan, p. 156

10/2 "Of Mice and Men," Catherine MacKinnon (x)

4 *Respect for Nature*, Paul Taylor

9 NO Class

11 *Respect*

16 *Respect*

18 *Respect*

23 An Inconvenient Truth, film

- 25 discussion of Truth; "Mr Green," Kolbert (x)
30 FEP, Naess, p. 402
11/1 FEP, Warren, p. 406
11/6 Warren; "The Last Drop," Specter (x); "Environmental Racism," Grossman (x)
8 Guest from Women's Voices of the Earth, WVE
13 *Ceremony*, Silko
15 *Ceremony*
20 NO class
27 *Ceremony*
29 Presentations
12/4 Presentations
6 Presentations *
*If we do not need 3 days for presentations, we'll spend an extra day on *Ceremony*

Books

Respect for Nature, Paul Taylor

Ceremony, Leslie Silko

The Fundamentals of Environmental Philosophy (FEP), edited by Frederick Kaufman
(x) Xeroxed and on reserve in the philosophy department library, L.A. 101

Requirements

4 short papers on assigned topics, 3-5 pages each 50%

Group presentation (guidelines on separate sheet) 25%

Comprehensive final exam 25%

Attendance and participation will be taken into consideration if it's a close call when I calculate final grades.