

**University of California, Davis**  
**Department of Philosophy**  
**PROBLEMS IN NORMATIVE ETHICS**  
**PHI 115, Winter 2008**  
**233 Wellman, MWF 1:10-2 PM**

## Contact Information

**Instructor:** Professor Roberta Millstein  
**Office:** 2287 Social Sciences and Humanities (corner of 3rd and A)  
**Office Phone:** 530-752-8987  
**Office Hours:** MW 11-12 PM, and by appointment  
**E-mail:** RLMillstein@UCDavis.edu (*the best way to reach me*)  
**Philosophy Dept. Office, my mailbox:** 1241 Social Sciences and Humanities  
**Philosophy Dept. Phone:** 530-752-0607

## Required Texts

*Environmental Ethics: Concepts, Policy, Theory*, edited by Joseph Desjardins (**EE**)  
*Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*, by Patrick G. Derr and Edward M. McNamara (**CSEE**)  
Readings available on class website on SmartSite (**web**)

## Course Description

Many people are concerned about a variety of environmental issues, from pollution to global warming to the extinction of species. They say that we “should” do something about those issues. But what ethical assumptions underlie that “should”? Is it a concern for human well-being? For animals? For all life? Or, even more broadly, for ecosystems? In other words, which things count morally? The answers matter not only because we need to justify our actions, but because different answers may imply different courses of action. In this class, we will explore the various answers that can and have been given to this question, and see how well these answers hold up when applied to contemporary environmental case studies.

The goals of this course are: 1) to introduce you to some of the major issues within environmental ethics; 2) to encourage you to critically examine your own beliefs as well as the beliefs of others; 3) to provide the opportunity to discuss, both in class and in a more sustained written form, your ideas and arguments concerning important issues in environmental ethics.

## Class Policies and Course Requirements

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, or if you would need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation, please contact me as soon as possible.

You are responsible for *all* material covered in class, including announcements, discussions, etc. – whether you are in class or not. **Take notes on discussions as well as lecture.** Announcements are usually made at the beginning of class, so *please be on time*, and if you must be late or leave early, please do so quietly.

Since we will be discussing the readings in class, **you should bring the reading for the day to each class.** Please turn off pagers & cell phones. Please do not bring guests (friends, children, etc.) without my permission. Eating in class is ok if it is done quietly and unobtrusively.

**Your grade will be based on the following** (all dates subject to change):

- 10%** - Comments/questions on each day’s readings, **posted to the Forums section of SmartSite before class**, and in-class small group discussion projects. These are graded CR/NC. **Note:** 10%=full letter grade!
- 45%** - Three two-page analytical essays **due in class on Wed Jan 23, Wed Feb 13, and Mon, Mar 3**
- 5%** - On time-submission of term paper draft and peer review on (CR/NC) - **due in class, Mon Mar 17**
- 40%** - Final exam - term paper (5-7 pages) **due 10AMSat, Mar 22**

**You must complete the three analytical essays and the final exam in order to pass the class.** In the case of a borderline grade, class participation will be given serious consideration.

## Important note on plagiarism/cheating:

It is a violation of the Code of Academic Conduct to turn in work that is not your own. This includes: turning in the work of another student with your name on it, buying/copying a paper off the Internet, using the words *or* ideas of others without proper quotation and citation. In accordance with the Regulation 550 of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate, **a grade of "0" will be assigned to examinations or assignments on which cheating, plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty is admitted or determined to have occurred by proper adjudication.** If you have trouble with the class material or have personal issues that prevent you from doing your work, come talk to me.

## Tentative Schedule - All dates and readings are subject to change.

**EE** = *Environmental Ethics: Concepts, Policy, Theory*

**CSEE** = *Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*

**web** = class website on SmartSite

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 7	Introduction	Syllabus
Jan 9	Environmental Crisis?	<b>EE:</b> Simon, pp. 60-65 or <b>Web:</b> Simon
Jan 11	Environmental Crisis?	<b>Web:</b> McKibben
Jan 14	Ethical theory: Utilitarian	<b>EE:</b> DesJardins, pp. 12-17, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 27
Jan 16	Ethical theory: Deontological (Kantian)	<b>EE:</b> DesJardins, pp. 17-24, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 35
Jan 18	Ethical theory	<b>None - Discussion Project</b>
Jan 21	No class - MLK Day	None
Jan 23	Anthropocentrism: Aesthetic values	<b>EE:</b> Muir, pp. 138-144, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 14
Jan 25	Anthropocentrism: Aesthetic values	<b>EE:</b> Krieger, pp. 145-156
Jan 28	Anthropocentrism: Aesthetic values	<b>EE:</b> Eliot, pp. 156-164, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 18
Jan 30	Anthropocentrism: Pollution	<b>EE:</b> Misch, pp. 259-274
Feb 1	Anthropocentrism: Pollution	<b>EE:</b> Baxter, pp. 274-278, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 15
Feb 4	Anthropocentrism	<b>None - Discussion Project</b>
Feb 6	Individualism: Animals	<b>EE:</b> Singer, pp. 187-195, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 3
Feb 8	Individualism: Animals	<b>EE:</b> Regan, pp. 196-202, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 19
Feb 11	Individualism: Animals	<b>EE:</b> Cohen, pp. 301-307, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 2
Feb 13	Individualism: All life	<b>Web:</b> Taylor, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 29
Feb 15	Individualism: All life	<b>Web:</b> Varner, FresnoBee
Feb 18	No class - President's Day	None
Feb 20	Ecocentrism	<b>EE:</b> Leopold, pp. 218-227, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 23
Feb 22	Ecocentrism	<b>EE:</b> Calicott, pp. 227-238, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 25
Feb 25	Ecocentrism	<b>Web:</b> Cahen
Feb 27	Ecocentrism	<b>EE:</b> Sagoff, pp. 317-322, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 5
Feb 29	Ecocentrism vs Individualism	<b>None - Discussion Project</b>
Mar 3	All encompassing: Deep Ecology	<b>EE:</b> Devall & Sessions, pp. 524-530, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 10
Mar 5	All encompassing: Holism, again	<b>EE:</b> Marietta, pp. 238-246, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 16
Mar 7	All encompassing: Social Ecology	<b>EE:</b> Bookchin, pp. 531-540, <b>CSEE:</b> Case 1
Mar 10	All encompassing: Third World Critique	<b>EE:</b> Guha, pp. 589-595
Mar 12	All encompassing: Environmental politics	<b>EE:</b> Mills, pp. 562-572, <b>Web:</b> Nguyen
Mar 14	TBD	TBD
Mar 17	Term paper drafts due – in-class peer review	