Philosophy 3510  Environmental Ethics  Spring 2012

Dr. Sherlock

T/H 12:00  Main 006

Office  202 E    HRS  T/H 9—11:30  Wed 3—5
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Text  Reading Packet

Requirements  2 take home midterms, a final and two 4 page essays

Each easy and each midterm will be graded on a 100 point scale. The final will be passed out the last week. It will be worth 200 points. My grade scale is attached to this syllabus.

Goals for the class

1. learn about the approaches to ethics that have been well developed in the philosophical tradition of western civilization

2. learn about major approaches to valuing nature and animals in the field of environmental ethics

3. see how these approaches are rooted in religious and moral frameworks developed in our civilization

Outline of Class

Introduction January 10

I  Basic Ethics  Jan  12—26

II. Foundations :Nature and the Sacred Jan 31—Feb 9

   Bible, Thoreau, Hoffer, White, Denig, Dennis

III  Economic Arguments Feb 14—23

   Hardin, Edwards, Sagoff,

IV  Land Ethics  Feb. 28—March 1

   Leopold, Rodman
V. Aesthetic Arguments March 6—20

Hargrove, Carlson

VI Animal Moral Standing March 22—April 5

Singer, Regan, Frey, Cohen

VI I Endangered Species April 10

Russow

VIII Exotic Species April 12

Sagoff

IX Climate Change April 19—24

Readings passed out

Conclusion April 26
January 10  Intro

January
12  ethics
17  Ethics
19  ethics
24  ethics
26  ethics

Foundations
31  Lynn white

February
2  Denig and the Bible
7  Thoreau
9  Hoffer /Dennis

Economic Approaches
14  Hardin
16  Edwards
21  Monday Classes
23  Sagoff

The Land Ethic
28  Leopold

March
1  Rodman

Aesthetic Approaches
6  Hargrove
8  Carlson

Spring Break  March 10—18
20  Hargrove and Carlson

Animal Moral Standing
22  Singer
27  Reagan
29  Frey

April
3  Cohen
5  Animal Moral Standing Summary

Endangered Species
10  Russow

Exotics
12  Sagoff
17  Precautionary Principle

Climate Change
19  IPCC Summary
24  Coalition Statement
26 Conclusion
Test and Papers Dates

Remember papers should only be 4 pages

TESTS

1. passed out  February 16  
   DUE  February 28

2  passed out  March 28  
   DUE  April 10

Papers

1. Due February 16  
   TOPICS:
   Respond to Dennis’ argument for privatizing wilderness
   OR
   Take a stand either the Biblical view of God and creation or Thoreau’s view

2. Due  April  17  
   TOPICs:
   Respond to Frey’s argument about why animals have no rights
   OR
   Russow’s argument about why only some species have worth
Grade Scale

600 points possible

600—570 A
569—530 A-
529—515 B+
514—485 B
484—465 B-
464—450 C+
449—430 C
429—400 C-

Grading Grid

Spelling errors  1 point off  for each

Grammar errors 2 points off for each

Clarity  3 points off for each error

Organization  3 points off for each error

Conclusion. If you don’t take a stand and give reason(s)  7 points off