

Philosophy 3510 Environmental Ethics Fall 2014

Dr. Sherlock

MWF 3—3:50 Old Main 121

Office 202 E HRS MWF 10:30—11:30; 1—3, 4—5
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Text Reading Packet

Requirements There will be 6 two page papers on assigned topics. The topics and due dates are attached. There will also be a take home mid-term and a take home final. Each will take about 5 pages. Thus there will be about 22 pages of writing. Each paper will be worth 100 points. The exams will be worth 150 points. I will offer two extra papers you can write. If you write 7 papers I will drop your lowest score. If you write 8 I will drop your lowest two scores. **This does not count for exams.**

Goals for the class

- 1 Improve your writing skills on controversial moral questions
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 August 25

I Basic Ethics Aug. 27—Sept.10

II. Foundations :Nature and the Sacred Sept 12—29

Bible, Thoreau, Hoffer, White, Denig, Dennis

III Economic Arguments October 1—10

Hardin, Edwards, Sagoff,

IV Land Ethics Oct. 13—24

Leopold, Rodman

V. Aesthetic Arguments Oct 27—Nov 3

Hargrove, Carlson

VI Animal Moral Standing Nov 5—17

Singer, Regan, Frey, Cohen

VI I Endangered Species Nov 19

Russow

VIII Exotic Species Nov 21

Sagoff

IX Climate Change December 1—3

Readings passed out

Conclusion Dec. 5

Paper Topics and Due Dates

1. Describe Thoreau's nature pantheism and offer one criticism.

SEPTEMBER 19

2. Describe the two solutions to the "tragedy of the commons" and give a reason to pick one.

OCTOBER 10

- 3 How does Rodman argue for the "good of trees" and how might this argument be problematic as applied to humans ?

OCTOBER 27

- 4 Explain Hargrove's aesthetic argument for the valuation of nature and offer a criticism

NOVEMBER 7

- 5 What is Cohen's argument against animals having rights and what is one criticism?

NOVEMBER 14

6. What is Russow's argument for saving endangered species and what is 1 criticism?

NOVEMBER 21

Extra Credit

- 7 Explain the basis of Hoffer's argument for planetary development and offer a criticism.

8. why does Frey think that animals have no rights and offer a criticism.

KEY TO NOTES ON PAPERS

ON THE SIDE OF A LINE WHERE THE ERROR IS I WILL NOTE THE ERROR AS FOLLOWS

S= SPELLING ERROR MORE THAN ONE ERROR IN A LINE WILL GET AS MANY S AS NEEDED

G= GRAMMAR ERROR, SAME RULE AS MANY G'S AS NEEDED

O= ORGANIZATION THIS MAY TAKE IN SEVERAL LINES, I WILL NOTE

C= CLAIRITY THIS TOO MAY TAKE IN MORE THAN ONE LINE

CO= CONCLUSION

POINTS TAKEN OFF

SPELLING --2 FOR EACH ERROR

GRAMMAR --2 FOR EACH ERROR

CLAIRITY --5 FOR EACH ERROR

ORGANIZATION --5 FOR EACH ERROR

CONCLUSION --7 FOR NO CONCLUSION

GRADE BREAKDOWN

- 900—860 A
- 859—800 A-
- 799—760 B+
- 759—720 B
- 719—680 B-
- 679—640 C+
- 639—600 C
- 599—560 C-