

# PHIL 3530 ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS (DHA)

## Instructor

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Office Hours: Wednesday 12:30-1:30 and by appointment.

## Course Description

In this course, we will explore the nature of human obligations to the natural environment and to other living beings in that environment. In the first section, we'll consider the scope and nature of our obligations. We will discuss whether we have obligations to living beings *because* they are living beings, and we'll consider whether it is reasonable to view ourselves as having obligations to ecosystems as a whole. We'll discuss Environmental Justice and how differences in geography and demographics may give rise to differences in moral obligation. In the second section, we'll discuss issues like climate change, pollution, food ethics, consumption, and population.

## Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will:

1. Develop a clearer understanding of, and commitment to, personal values.
2. Learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.
3. Acquire an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers.

## Course Resources

Textbook: *Environmental Ethics: Readings in Theory and Application*. 7th edition. Edited by Pojman, Pojman, and McShane

*Other readings may be posted on Canvas as needed.*

## Course Requirements

Each student will:

1. Complete EXAM ONE worth 25% of the course grade. EXAM ONE will be in the testing center on **Wednesday, February 27th**. EXAM ONE will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions.

2. Complete EXAM TWO worth 25% of the course grade. EXAM TWO will be in the testing center on **Friday, April 12th**. EXAM TWO will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions.
3. Write a five page, doubled spaced TERM PAPER worth 20% of the course grade. Topics will be posted on Canvas. The first draft of the paper is due, on Canvas, on **Friday, March 22nd**. The final version of the paper is due, on Canvas, on **Friday, April 19th**.
4. Complete ten WEEKLY WRITING ASSIGNMENTS worth 20% of the course grade. These assignments will be completed on Canvas and the assignment requirements will be included in the Canvas assignment itself. Responses must not be shorter than three substantial paragraphs.
5. Complete an ARTISTIC RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT worth 5% of the course grade. This assignment may take many acceptable forms including: poetry, prose, visual art, music, or a one page response to an artistic piece centered on the environment. This assignment is due **Friday, March 29th**.
6. Complete a one page SUMMARY OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL FILM worth 5% of the course grade. A list of films will be provided. This assignment is due **Friday, April 5th**.

## **Course Schedule/Outline**

### **Week One: *Introduction***

Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup> Introduction to Environmental Ethics

Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> Introduction to Logic

*Reading: None*

Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> Introduction to Ethical Theory

*Reading: Textbook, Introduction (pg. 1) and What is Ethics (pg. 3)*

### **Week Two: *Frameworks and Scope of Environmental Ethics***

Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> Frameworks *Reading: Textbook, Contested Frameworks in Environmental Ethics (pg. 14)*

Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> *Reading: No new reading. Continued discussion of previous reading.*

Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> *Reading: Ideals of Human Excellence and Preserving Natural Environments*

### **Week Three: *Biocentrism***

Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> Martin Luther King Jr. Day, NO CLASS

Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> *Reading: Reverence for Life by Albert Schweitzer (pg.169)*

Friday, January 25th *Reading: Biocentric Egalitarianism by Paul Taylor (pg. 177)*

Week Four: ***Holism and Ecocentrism***

Monday, January 28th ART MUSEUM VISIT

Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> *Reading: The Land Ethic by Aldo Leopold (pg. 237)*

Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> *Reading: The Conceptual Foundations of the Land Ethic by J. Baird Callicott (pg. 248)*

Week Five: ***Holism and Deep Ecology***

Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup> *Reading: Ecosophy T: Deep Versus Shallow Ecology by Arne Ness (pg. 222)*

Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> *Reading: Deep Ecology by Bill Devall and George Sessions (pg. 231)*

Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> *Reading: Against the Moral Considerability of Ecosystems by Harley Cahen (pg. 276).*

Week Six: ***Environmental Justice***

Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> *Reading: Radical Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique (pg. 307)*

Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> *Overcoming Racism in Environmental Decision Making by Robert D. Bullard (pg. 315)*

Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> *Reading TBA*

Week Seven: *TBA*

Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> President's Day NO CLASS

Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> *TBA*

Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> *TBA*

Week Eight: ***Midterm Preparation and Midterm***

Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup> REVIEW

Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> Midterm in the Testing Center NO CLASS

Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> No class (Professor away at conference)

Week Nine: *Climate Change*

Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> NO CLASS (Professor away at conference)

Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>: *Reading: TBA*

Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> *Reading: TBA*

Week Ten: *Spring Break*

Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> SPRING BREAK NO CLASS

Week Eleven *Pollution*

Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> *Reading: TBA*

Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> *Reading: TBA*

Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> *Reading: TBA*

Week Twelve *Food Ethics*

Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> *Reading: TBA*

Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> *Reading: TBA*

Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> *Reading: TBA* **ARTISTIC RESPONSE ASSIGNMENT DUE**

Week Thirteen *Population and Consumption*

Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> *Reading: TBA*

Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> *Reading: TBA*

Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> *Reading: TBA* **ENVIRONMENTAL FILM RESPONSE DUE**

Week Fourteen

Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> *Catch-Up Day*

Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> Review

Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> Exam Two in Testing Center NO CLASS.

Week Fifteen

Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> *Paper Workshop*

Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> *Paper Workshop*

Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> NO CLASS (Professor away at conference) **Final Paper Due on Canvas.**

## **Nonattendance Policy**

### **Students May Be Dropped For Nonattendance**

If a student does not attend a class during the first week of the term or by the second class meeting, whichever comes first, the instructor may submit a request to have the student dropped from the course. (*This does not remove responsibility from the student to drop courses which he or she does not plan to attend.*) This option is typically used for classes that are full and the instructor is trying to make a seat available for another student, but may be considered for other courses. Requests must be made during the first 20 percent of the course and will be considered on an individual student basis. Students who are dropped from courses will be notified by the Registrar's Office through their preferred e-mail account (see [2018-2019 General Catalog \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)).

### **Assumption of Risk**

All classes, programs, and extracurricular activities within the University involve some risk, and certain ones involve travel. The University provides opportunities to participate in these programs on a voluntary basis. Therefore, students should not participate in them if they do not care to assume the risks. Students can ask the respective program leaders/sponsors about the possible risks a program may generate, and if students are not willing to assume the risks, they should not select that program. By voluntarily participating in classes, programs, and extracurricular activities, a student does so at his or her own risk. General information about University Risk Management policies, insurance coverage, vehicle use policies, and risk management forms can be found at: <http://www.usu.edu/riskmg/> ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#)

### **Library Services**

All USU students attending classes in Logan, at our Regional Campuses, or online can access all databases, e-journals, and e-books regardless of location. Additionally, the library will mail printed books to students, at no charge to them. Students can also borrow books from any Utah academic library. Take advantage of all library services and learn more at [libguides.usu.edu/rc](http://libguides.usu.edu/rc). ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#)

## **Classroom Civility.**

Utah State University supports the principle of freedom of expression for both faculty and students. The University respects the rights of faculty to teach and students to learn. Maintenance of these rights requires classroom conditions that do not impede the learning process. Disruptive classroom behavior will not be tolerated. An individual engaging in such behavior may be subject to disciplinary action. Read [Student Code Article V Section V-3](#) ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#) for more information.

## **University Policies & Procedures**

### **Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibilities**

Academic freedom is the right to teach, study, discuss, investigate, discover, create, and publish freely. Academic freedom protects the rights of faculty members in teaching and of students in learning. Freedom in research is fundamental to the advancement of truth. Faculty members are entitled to full freedom in teaching, research, and creative activities, subject to the limitations imposed by professional responsibility. [Faculty Code Policy #403](#) ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#) further defines academic freedom and professional responsibilities.

### **Academic Integrity – "The Honor System"**

Each student has the right and duty to pursue his or her academic experience free of dishonesty. To enhance the learning environment at Utah State University and to develop student academic integrity, each student agrees to the following Honor Pledge:

*"I pledge, on my honor, to conduct myself with the foremost level of academic integrity."*

A student who lives by the Honor Pledge is a student who does more than not cheat, falsify, or plagiarize.

A student who lives by the Honor Pledge:

- Espouses academic integrity as an underlying and essential principle of the Utah State University community;
- Understands that each act of academic dishonesty devalues every degree that is awarded by this institution; and
- Is a welcomed and valued member of Utah State University.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

The instructor of this course will take appropriate actions in response to Academic Dishonesty, as defined the University's Student Code. Acts of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to:

- **Cheating:** using, attempting to use, or providing others with any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, examinations, or in any other academic exercise or activity. Unauthorized assistance includes:
  - Working in a group when the instructor has designated that the quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity be done "individually;"
  - Depending on the aid of sources beyond those authorized by the instructor in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;

- Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, in taking an examination or preparing academic work;
- Acquiring tests or other academic material belonging to a faculty member, staff member, or another student without express permission;
- Continuing to write after time has been called on a quiz, test, examination, or any other academic exercise or activity;
- Submitting substantially the same work for credit in more than one class, except with prior approval of the instructor; or engaging in any form of research fraud.
- **Falsification:** altering or fabricating any information or citation in an academic exercise or activity.
- **Plagiarism:** representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or by an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

For additional information go to: [ARTICLE VI. University Regulations Regarding Academic Integrity \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)

## **Sexual Harassment/Title IX**

Utah State University is committed to creating and maintaining an environment free from acts of sexual misconduct and discrimination and to fostering respect and dignity for all members of the USU community. Title IX and [USU Policy 339 \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#) address sexual harassment in the workplace and academic setting.

The university responds promptly upon learning of any form of possible discrimination or sexual misconduct. Any individual may contact USU's [Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity \(AA/EO\) Office \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#) for available options and resources or clarification. The university has established a complaint procedure to handle all types of discrimination complaints, including sexual harassment ([USU Policy 305 \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)), and has designated the AA/EO Director/Title IX Coordinator as the official responsible for receiving and investigating complaints of sexual harassment.

## **Withdrawal Policy and "I" Grade Policy**

Students are required to complete all courses for which they are registered by the end of the semester. In some cases, a student may be unable to complete all of the coursework because of extenuating circumstances, but not due to poor performance or to retain financial aid. The term 'extenuating' circumstances includes: (1) incapacitating illness which prevents a student from attending classes for a minimum period of two weeks, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) financial responsibilities requiring a student to alter a work schedule to secure employment, (4) change in work schedule as required by an employer, or (5) other emergencies deemed appropriate by the instructor.

## **Students with Disabilities**

USU welcomes students with disabilities. If you have, or suspect you may have, a physical, mental health, or learning disability that may require accommodations in this course, please contact the [Disability Resource Center \(DRC\) \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#) as early in the semester as possible (University Inn # 101, (435) 797- 2444, [drc@usu.edu](mailto:drc@usu.edu)). All disability related accommodations must be approved by the DRC. Once approved, the DRC will coordinate with faculty to provide accommodations.

## **Diversity Statement**

Regardless of intent, careless or ill-informed remarks can be offensive and hurtful to others and detract from the learning climate. If you feel uncomfortable in a classroom due to offensive language or actions by an instructor or student(s) regarding ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation, contact:

- Division of Student Affairs: <https://studentaffairs.usu.edu> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site., (435) 797-1712, [studentservices@usu.edu](mailto:studentservices@usu.edu), TSC 220
- Student Legal Services: <https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site., (435) 797-2912, TSC 326,
- Access and Diversity: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site., (435) 797-1728, [access@usu.edu](mailto:access@usu.edu); TSC 315
- Multicultural Programs: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site., (435) 797-1728, TSC 315
- LGBTQA Programs: <http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site., (435) 797-1728, TSC 3145
- Provost's Office Diversity Resources: <https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site., (435) 797-8176

You can learn about your student rights by visiting:

The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State

University: <https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

## Grievance Process

Students who feel they have been unfairly treated may file a grievance through the channels and procedures described in the Student Code: [Article VII \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)

## Full details for USU Academic Policies and Procedures can be found at:

- [Student Conduct \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
- [Student Code \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
- [Academic Integrity \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
- [USU Selected Academic Policies and Procedures \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
- [USU Academic Policies and Procedures \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)
- [Academic Freedom and Professional Responsibility Policy \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)

## Emergency Procedures

In the case of a drill or real emergency, classes will be notified to evacuate the building by the sound of the fire/emergency alarm system or by a building representative. In the event of a disaster that may interfere with either notification, evacuate as the situation dictates (i.e., in an earthquake when shaking ceases or immediately when a fire is discovered). Turn off computers and take any personal items with you. Elevators should not be used; instead, use the closest stairs.