Instructor

Dr. Rachel Robison-Greene
e-mail: rachel.robison@usu.edu
Office: ECC 102 B
Office Hours: M/W 12:30-1:20
Class Location and Meeting Time: Old Main 117, 9:30-10:20

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


Other readings may be posted on Canvas as needed.
Course Requirements (Worth a total of 1000 points).

Each student will:

1. Attendance (10%--100pts). Students are expected to attend class regularly. I will take attendance every day. Students can be absent three times without penalty.

2. Complete EXAM ONE (25%--250pts). EXAM ONE will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions and will be available in the testing center on **Thursday, February 20-Friday, February 21st**.

3. Complete EXAM TWO (25%--250pts). EXAM TWO will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions and will be available in the testing center **Thursday, April 23-Saturday, April 25th**.

4. Complete TEN WEEKLY WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (20%--200 pts). Students will complete these assignments on Canvas. The assignment requirements will be included in the Canvas assignment itself. Responses must not be shorter than three substantial paragraphs.

5. Write a five page, doubled-spaced TERM PAPER (20%--200) Some potential topics are posted on Canvas, but other topics are acceptable if they are approved by the instructor. The first draft of the paper is due, on Canvas, on **Friday, March 13th**. The final version of the paper is due, on Canvas, on **Friday, April 10th**.

Course Schedule/Outline

**Week One**

Monday, January 6th : Review of Syllabus

Wednesday, January 8th: Introduction to Logic and Introduction to Ethics.

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

Friday, January 10th: Introduction to Logic and Introduction to Ethics.

*Due: Writing Assignment One.*

**Week Two**

Monday, January 13th: Introduction to Logic and Introduction to Ethics.

Wednesday, January 15th: Introduction to Logic and Introduction to Ethics

Friday, January 17th: Logic: Arguments for and Against Anthropocentrism.

*Due: Writing Assignment Two.*
Week Three

*Biocentrism*

Monday, January 20th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day **NO CLASS**

Wednesday, January 22nd: Biocentrism.

*Reading: Reverence for Life by Albert Schweitzer (pg.169)*

Friday, January 24th: Biocentrism.

*Due: Writing Assignment Three.*

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Week Four

*Holism and Ecocentrism*

Monday, January 27th: Holism and Ecocentrism.

*Reading: The Land Ethic by Aldo Leopold (pg. 237)*

Wednesday, January 29th: Holism and Ecocentrism.

Friday, January 31st: ART MUSEUM VISIT

*Due: Writing Assignment Four.*

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Week Five

*Environmental Justice*

Monday, February 3rd: Local Environmental Justice

*Reading: Overcoming Racism in Environmental Decision Making by Robert D. Bullard (pg. 315)*

Wednesday, February 5th: Local Environmental Justice.

Friday, February 7th: Local Environmental Justice.

*Due: Writing Assignment Five.*

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Week Six

Monday, February 10th: Global Environmental Justice.

*Reading: Radical Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique (pg. 307)*
Wednesday, February 12th: Global Environmental Justice.

Friday, February 14th: Global Environmental Justice.

*Due: Writing Assignment Six.*

**Week Seven**

Monday, February 17th: Presidents' Day **NO CLASS.**

Wednesday, February 19th: REVIEW

Friday, February 21st: EXAM IN TESTING CENTER

**Week Eight**

*Animal Rights/Animal Welfare.*

Monday, February 24th: Professor Away at Conference, **NO CLASS.**

Wednesday, February 26th: Arguments Against Moral Obligation to Non-Human Animals.

*Why Animals Do Not Have Rights by Carl Cohen* (Posted on Canvas).

Friday, February 28th: Arguments Against Obligation to Non-Human Animals.

*Due: Writing Assignment Seven*

**Week Nine: SPRING BREAK**

Monday, March 2nd: Spring Break. **NO CLASS.**

Wednesday, March 4th: Spring Break. **NO CLASS.**

Friday, March 6th: Spring Break. **NO CLASS.**

**Week Ten:**

Monday, March 9th: Utilitarian Approaches to Animal Welfare.

Reading: *A Utilitarian Case for Animal Liberation by Peter Singer* (pg. 96).

Wednesday, March 11th: Utilitarian Approaches to Animal Welfare.

Friday, March 13th: Rights Based Approaches to Animal Welfare.

Reading: *The Radical Egalitarian Case for Animal Rights by Tom Regan* (pg 106).
Due: Term Paper Rough Draft.

Week Eleven
Monday, March 16th: Rights Based Approaches to Animal Welfare.

Wednesday, March 18th: Animal Agriculture and the Environment.
Livestock’s Role in Climate Change and Air Pollution (pg 628).

Friday, March 20th: Animal Agriculture and the Environment.
Film: Cowspiracy.

Due: Writing Assignment Eight.

Week Twelve
Monday, March 23rd: Climate Change.
Reading: Ethics and Global Climate Change (pg 674).

Wednesday, March 25th: Climate Change.

Friday, March 27th: Climate Change.
Due: Writing Assignment Nine.

Week Thirteen
Monday, March 30th: Geonengineering

Reading: Rethinking the Unthinkable: Environmental Ethics and the Presumptive Argument against Geoengineering.

Wednesday, April 1st: Geoengineering.

Friday, April 3rd: Geoengineering.

Due: Writing Assignment Ten.

Week Fourteen
Monday, April 6th: Population and Consumption

Wednesday, April 8th: Population and Consumption
Friday, April 10th: Population and Consumption

Due: Term Paper Final Draft.

Week Fifteen:

Monday, April 13th: Population and Consumption

Wednesday, April 15th: Population and Consumption

Friday, April 17th: NO CLASS (Professor at Conference).

Week Sixteen:

Monday, April 20th: REVIEW

Final Exam: Thursday, April 23rd-Saturday, April 25th.

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).

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/risksmgmt/.
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.

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 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 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 by 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](https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article6)

**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](http://www.usu.edu/policies/339) 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 [Office of Equity](https://equity.usu.edu/) 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](http://www.usu.edu/policies/305/)), and has designated the Office of Equity 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) (http://www.usu.edu/drc/) 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 (https://studentaffairs.usu.edu), (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 (https://ususa.usu.edu/student-association/student-advocacy/legal-services), (435) 797-2912, TSC 326,
- Access and Diversity: http://accesscenter.usu.edu (http://accesscenter.usu.edu), (435) 797-1728, access@usu.edu (mailto:access@usu.edu); TSC 315
- Multicultural Programs: http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture (http://accesscenter.usu.edu/multiculture), (435) 797-1728, TSC 315
- LGBTQA Programs: http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa (http://accesscenter.usu.edu/lgbtqa), (435) 797-1728, TSC 3145
- Provost's Office Diversity Resources: https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity (https://www.usu.edu/provost/diversity), (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 (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/)

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 (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode/article7).

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

- Student Conduct (http://www.usu.edu/studentconduct)
- Student Code (https://studentconduct.usu.edu/studentcode)
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.

Course Summary:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<td>Fri Jan 10, 2020</td>
<td>Assignment One: Introduction</td>
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<td>Fri Jan 17, 2020</td>
<td>Assignment Two: Moral Responsibility and Environmental Knowledge</td>
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<td>Fri Jan 24, 2020</td>
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<td>Assignment Six: Poverty Tourism</td>
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<td>Fri Feb 21, 2020</td>
<td>Environmental Ethics Exam One</td>
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<td>Fri Mar 13, 2020</td>
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