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Course Description and Objectives
The purpose of this course is to introduce the field of environmental philosophy and ethics, to encourage philosophical and ethical reflection on environmental issues, and to stimulate healthy attitudes and action in regards to our natural environment. To do this, we will examine various environmental ethics and ecophilosophies and how they apply to various environmental issues. We will also undertake a group service-learning project in which will put theory into practice (and vice-versa), while also contributing towards making our environment and community a healthier place to live.

The objectives of this course are:
1. To acquire a good understanding of the principal philosophical and ethical perspectives that have been developed in response to environmental issues.
2. To show a facility to use the language and concepts of philosophy and ethics with respect to specific environmental issues.
3. To do an environmental service project that makes for a healthier community and world.
4. To develop one’s own environmental philosophy and ethic.
5. To develop one’s own personal integrity by incorporating ecological sensitivity in one’s own life.

Texts
Assorted handouts

Course Requirements
1. Environmental Journal (25% of grade, 12 Font Times New Roman, double-spaced)
   This journal will include individual assignments to be turned in throughout the semester, with the complete journal turned in at the end of the semester. I will give comments on the individual assignments, but will not assign a grade to the journal until the end. Two or more late assignments will penalize the journal as a whole by one letter grade.

1. Mid-term exam (20% of grade) Take-home essay exam. You may use your books and notes, but no outside sources allowed and you must do your own work. Late exams will receive a penalty of one letter grade.
2. Service-learning project (15% of grade) You will work in groups to design a presentation on one area of living a more environmentally sensitive life (e.g. energy use, food, consumption of material goods, recycling, etc.). I expect your group to do in depth research on the topic and to design a creative presentation (no lectures). The presentation should be geared to high school students as you will give your presentation to students at Graystone High School. You will have a chance to get feedback from our class before presenting to the high school. You will have some class time to work together.

3. Two case briefs (3-4 pages, each 15% of grade, 12 Font Times New Roman, double-spaced) One case brief is due before fall break and the other is due after fall break (pick one of the days listed). To receive an “A” briefs must be well written, reflect assigned readings, and develop the normative dimension. To receive a “B” briefs must at least develop the normative dimension. Late case briefs will receive a penalty of one letter grade.

4. Class participation (10% of grade) This course will rely heavily on discussion and dialogue. It is a courtesy to the instructor and to your fellow students as well as a responsibility to yourself to finish the assigned readings and be prepared to participate in discussions. I encourage you to ask questions about parts of the readings that you do not understand. Such questions will help everyone to understand the material better. Absences from class will matter: 0-2 = A, 3 = B, 4 = C, 5 = D, and more than 5 = F (grade could be raised slightly higher if you participate a lot). Two times late to the class (more than 4 minutes) constitutes an absence for my attendance policy. Students who are absent for any reason from more than ¼ of the class meetings cannot receive a passing grade from the instructor.

Final Grade Policy (A = 3.75-4.00; A- = 3.50-3.74; B+ = 3.21-3.49; B = 2.85-3.20; B- = 2.50-2.84; C+ = 2.21-2.49; C = 1.85-2.20; C- = 1.50-1.84; D = 1.00-1.49; F= <1.00)

**Honor Code**

The Honor Code is in effect in this course. This means that all take-home exams are to be taken without the assistance of other people or outside sources (books and notes are allowed). All papers and exams must be your own writing and you must give citations for any ideas that are not your own. Plagiarism is a violation of the Honor Code and the fundamental principles of academic integrity. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else’s ideas as if they were your own, without giving the originator of the idea the appropriate credit. You may use whatever format for citations as long as you are consistent. While the internet provides a wealth of information, you must avoid simply cutting and pasting materials from sources to create a paper. One of the key goals in writing a paper is to synthesize and integrate the material that you have read and to put the synthesis in your own words. An acceptable paper is NOT simply a mosaic of quotations, even if the sources for the quotation are shown. If you have any questions, please ask.

Any cell phone interruptions in the class will be grounds for a lower grade.
Course Outline

Aug 21  Introduce syllabus

Aug 23  Environmental Crisis
         DesJardins p. 59-91

Aug 28  Overview of Ethics
         DesJardins p. 1-24

Aug 30  Western Attitudes Towards the Natural World
         DesJardins p. 25-58
         Journal Assignment #1 due

Sept 4  Economics and Environmental Policy
         DesJardins p. 95-136

Sept 6  Conservation Perspective
         McPhee Part I

Sept 11 Preservation Perspective
        McPhee Part II
        Journal Assignment #2 due

Sept 13 Class Time for Service-Learning Project
         McPhee Part III

Sept 18 Aesthetic and Spiritual Values
         DesJardins p. 137-144 and 156-178

Sept 20 Extensionism and Anthropocentrism
         DesJardins p. 179-216

Sept 25 Holism: Ecology and Ethics
         DesJardins p. 217-257
         Journal Assignment #3 due

Sept 27 Deep Ecology and Social Ecology
         DesJardins p. 523-540
         “Introduction to Deep Ecology” George Sessions (handout)
         “The Deep Ecology-Ecofeminism Debate and Its Parallels”
         Warwick Fox (handout)

Oct 2  Ecofeminism
         DesJardins p. 541-554
         “The Death of Nature” Carolyn Merchant (handout)
         “Gender and the Environment” Mary Mellor (handout)
Oct 4  Environmental Justice
                     DesJardins p. 437-474
                     “One World Under God” Deane Curtin (handout)

Oct 9  A Sense of Place
                     “The Place, the Region, and the Commons” Gary Snyder (handout)
                     Journal Assignment #4 due – share with class
                     Mid-term Exam handout out

Oct 11  Time to work on exam and/or service-learning project

Fall Break

Oct 23  Case Study Role Play (Must dress in costume)
                     “Skull Valley” (handout)
                     Mid-term Exam due

Oct 25  Ethics and Animals
                     DesJardins p. 287-324

Oct 30  Raising Animals – Factory versus Organic Farming
                     Guest Speaker – Susan Wolfe
                     “Supporting Community Farming” Rebecca Todd Peters (handout)
                     Case Brief due on “Skull Valley”

Nov 1  Pollution
                     DesJardins p. 261-286
                     Shiva p. 1-37

Nov 6  Privatization of Water
                     Shiva p. 38-105

Nov 8  International Relations and the Environment
                     Shiva p. 106-140

Nov 13  Service-Learning Project Presentations in class (energy and food)

Nov 15  Ethics and Land
                     DesJardins p. 325-328 and 337-364
                     Journal Assignment #5 due
                     Service-Learning Project Presentations in class (waste)

Nov 20  No Class – professor at conference

Nov 22  No class – Thanksgiving
Nov 27  Wilderness Preservation  
DesJardins p. 365-393  
“Martin Mountain Takeover” (handout)

Nov 29  Service-Learning Project Presentations at Graystone School

Dec 4  Growth and Development  
DesJardins p. 394-436  
Case Brief due on Privatization of Water or “Martin Mountain Takeover”

Dec 8  Environmental Action  
http://www.centerfortheenvironment.org/  
Field Trip to Center for the Environment, Catawba College  
Final Journal due

For Further Reading


