Spring 2010

Philosophy 235: Introduction to Environmental Ethics
Tuesday/Thursday 10-11:30, McMillan 149
Professor Claude Evans: jcevans@artscl.wustl.edu
Office hours: Tuesday 3-4:00, Wednesday 2-3:00 in Wilson 111
Teaching Assistants: Carmen Price (ceprice@artscl.wustl.edu) M 12:30-1:30, Th 8:30-9:30 and Zach Hoskins (zhoskins@artscl.wustl.edu) TTh 12:1-00

TEXTS:
The Environmental Ethics & Policy Book. Edited by Donald VanDeVeer and Christine Pierce. 3rd edition. Photocopied and online (ERes) material.

READING
I. Introduction and Historical Background
"Preview" (43-52)
Metaphysical Anthropocentrism: "Genesis," Xenophon, Aristotle, and Kant (Photocopy)
*"The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis," Lynn White, Jr. (52-58)
"Stewardship versus Exploitation," Robin Attfield (66-71)

II. The Other Animals
"Preview" 114-122
*"Animal Liberation," Peter Singer (135-143)
"Utilitarianism" (24-27)
*"The Case for Animal Rights" Tom Regan (143-150)
"Rights Theories" (20-24)
*"Renegotiating the Contract" Barry Lopez (ERES)

III. The Broader, Biotic Community
"Preview" 174-182
*"On Being Morally Considerable," Kenneth Goodpaster (183-189))
*"The Ethics of Respect for Nature," Paul W. Taylor (201-215)
"Thinking Like a Mountain," Aldo Leopold (ERES)
*"The Land Ethic" Aldo Leopold (215-224)
*"The Conceptual Foundations of the Land Ethic" J. Baird Callicott (224-238)

IV. Deep Ecology
"Preview" (259-263)
*"Deep Ecology" Bill Devall and George Sessions (263-268)
*"Self Realization" Arne Naess (268-273)
"Do What's Natural, You Say?" (277-278)

V. Ecofeminism
"Preview" (279-282)
*"The Power and Promise of Ecofeminism" (282-296)
"How Feminist is Ecofeminism?" Victoria Davion (303-310)

VI. Private Property and Commons
"Preview" (359-364)
*"The Creation of Property," John Locke (374-377)
*"The Tragedy of the Commons" Garrett Hardin (364-372)
*"Understanding the Commons" Gary Snyder (ERES)
*"Property Rights in Natural Resources" Kristin Shrader-Frechette (377-378)
*"Takings, Just Compensation, and the Environment" Mark Sagoff (378-388)

VII. Markets
"Preview" 311-318
*"The Ethical Basis of the Economic View of the Environment" A. Myrick Freeman (318-327)
*"At the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima..." Mark Sagoff (327-335)

VIII. Business and the Environment
"Morality, Money, and Motor Cars," Norman Bowie (ERES)
"Environmental Pollution and the Law," Leonard Boonin (ERES)
"The Economic Common Sense of Pollution," Larry Ruff (ERES)

IX. Cost-Benefit Analysis
Preview (336-340)
"Cost-Benefit Analysis: An Ethical Critique" Steven Keman (341-347)
"Cost-Benefit Analysis Defended" Herman Leonard & Richard Zeckhauser (347-350)
"Cost-Benefit Analysis: Tool for All Seasons?" (350-352)

X. Sustainability
"Lifeboat Ethics," Garrett Hardin (402-408)
"Can the Supply of Resources Really Be Infinite? Yes!" Julian Simon (308-414)

XI. Biodiversity
Preview (451-459)
"The Diversity of Life," E. O. Wilson (459-465)
"What is a Species?" Stephen Jay Gould (465-469)
"Why Species Matter," Holmes Rolston III (476-483)

XII. Wilderness
Preview (512-515)
"Walking" and "Ktaadn" Henry David Thoreau (excerpts, ERES)
"A Near View of the High Sierras" John Muir (ERES)
"Wilderness and the Defense of Nature" Jack Turner (ERES)
"The Wild and its New Enemies" Jack Turner (ERES)
"The Trouble with Wilderness," William Cronon (ERES)

"Future Generations," Ernest Partridge (428-436)
"A Response," Christopher Flavin (615—620)

Course Requirements:
1. Serious reading of assigned material before it is discussed in class. You are expected to attend every class, to be on time, and to take part in class discussion.
2. As we go through the semester, each day I will announce the reading for the next class (often you will not have to read everything in the new section for the next class). You will required to write ten short (1 page with standard margins and normal font size) informal papers discussing some controversial issue discussed in readings marked with a "**". These are to be written before we discuss that reading in class, and must be turned in at the beginning of class. We will check this work, though it will not be given a letter grade. Satisfactory work (and most work should be judged satisfactory) will be given a check (√). Work that shows unusual excellence will be given a "√⁺"; work that does not try to engage an issue seriously will be given a "√⁻" or, in extreme cases, be simply judged to be unacceptable, in which case it does not count as one of the ten papers. An accumulation of pluses (more than three) can raise the final grade; an accumulation of minuses (more than three) can lower the final grade -- but you have the option of writing extra informal papers in order to accumulate at least seven checks.
3. There will be two longer (5 page) formal papers. One will be written when we complete section V, the other at the end of the semester. Each paper will constitute one half of the final grade.
4. For extra credit you can read a good newspaper every morning; be ready to tell the class about environmentally interesting articles. As an alternative, you may regularly watch an online site that tracks articles on the environment, such as http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/. (You can subscribe to a daily set of links to newspaper articles on environmental issues. I highly recommend this.) Keep a folder of such articles (maybe two per week), to be turned in at the end of the semester along with a 2-3 page paper discussing some topic that was in the news. Doing a good job with this will raise your grade one-third of a letter grade (B to B+, for example).

NOTE: If you are taking this course Credit/No Credit you must earn a grade of at least C+ in order to get credit.