

PHIL 2500 Environment & Society – Section 401 Online

Instructor Information:

Atoosa Afshari

Office hours: Online and by appointment

Emails:

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TA: hyunyang@my.unt.edu

Always check the announcements, as they are the first and most important way for me to stay connected with you and update or remind you about the course.

Course Description

This class explores ethical, ecological, and political dimensions of pressing contemporary environmental issues, paying particular attention to the interconnections between environmental and social concerns. Over the course of the semester, our focus will shift from defining and analyzing environmental crises to thinking creatively about how to move toward more just futures for all beings.

Structure

This is a fully asynchronous (no scheduled meetings) online course. Your interaction with me, your TA, and with your fellow students will take place through Canvas. I am available in person during my scheduled office hours through Zoom meetings by request.

Learning Objectives

1. Analyze key concepts and underlying ethical assumptions associated with contemporary environmental issues.
2. Connect environmental issues with social and political concerns.
3. Critically evaluate possible actions and solutions for addressing environmental issues and think creatively about visions for justice and Sustainable Futures.

Assessments:

Final grades will consist of the following:

Assignments 50%

Discussions 25%

Final Project 25%

Final course grades will reflect the following scale:

A=90%+ B=80-89% C=70-79% D=60-69% F=0-59%

Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT)

Student feedback is important and an essential part of participation in this course. The Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. This short survey will be made available at the end of the semester to provide you with an opportunity to evaluate how this course is taught.

Materials Course Schedule

All readings, films, and other required materials are available for free, either as PDFs or links on Canvas or through the UNT library. Details are on each week's "Materials" page. Be sure to always download any book, article, or PDFs first before you start reading, highlighting, or taking notes. So, it's better to download the material first, save it, and then read it.

****Please note that the schedule is subject to change; any changes will be announced via Canvas***

Weekly Modules & Assignments

Week 1: Environmental Values

- What does the environment mean to you? — 20 pts
- Hourdequin, Marion. 2024. *Environmental Ethics: From Theory to Practice*.pp. 3–24.
- Crist, Eileen. 2017. “The Affliction of Human Supremacy.” *The Ecological Citizen* 1 (1): 61-64.
- 1. Assignment— 24 pts

Week 2: Ethical theories and the environment

- Hourdequin, Marion. 2024. *Environmental Ethics: From Theory to Practice*.pp. 24–65.
- Utilitarianism (Video)
- Virtue Ethics (Video)
- Assignment— 15 pts

Week 3: Expanding the Moral Circle

- Hourdequin, Marion. 2024. *Environmental Ethics: From Theory to Practice*.pp. 66–90.
- Gruen, Lori, and Robert C. Jones. 2015. “*Veganism as an Aspiration*”
- Animal and Social Justice (Video)
- Assignments— 24 pts

Week 4: The Social Dimensions of Environmental Problems

- Hourdequin, Marion. 2024. *Environmental Ethics: From Theory to Practice*.pp. 109–125.
- Where Your Recycled Plastic Ends Up (Video)
- The Story of Stuff (Video)
- Reflection Discussion: My Day in Plastic — 20 pts

Week 5:

- Final Project