Environmental Issues
Philosophy 2500 T Th 15:30 – 16:50 hrs (LIFE A106)

Dr. Ricardo Rozzi (rozzi@unt.edu) &
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Office hours
Tue 5:00 – 6:30 pm @ ENV 310P (Ricardo Rozzi) or by appointment
Mon & Wed 3:00-5:00 pm @ ENV 320D (Christina Bovinette)

Goals: The general goal of this course is to provide a context for the ecological and ethical questions we face in our daily encounters with our community, peers and the world around us. Today we inhabit a global world: How to live together in such multicultural, multiple-species world? Ethics has little meaning unless it relates how we live to how we think about the world, and how we live together. UNT has the leading program on environmental philosophy. In 1978 the Center for Environmental Philosophy (www.cep.unt.edu) inaugurated the first journal in the field. In 2004, UNT established an innovative interdisciplinary, international program to address the former questions. In partnership with Chilean centers for Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research, UNT created the Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program, which integrates ecological sciences and environmental ethics to address some of the most pressing questions raised by global environmental change today.

The class will provide a solid basis for the foundational articles of U.S. environmental ethics, as well as an innovative biocultural approach to examine central philosophical concepts of biological and cultural diversity; the relations between societies and their environments; non-Western conceptions of nature and society. Students will gain an understanding about about the inter-relations between ecological sciences and ethics, societies and their environments, biological and cultural diversity, as well as about environmental and social problems derived from losses of biocultural diversity. It will also examine ongoing initiatives for biocultural conservation and sustainability, and learn about ongoing work from the Sub-Antarctic Biocultural Conservation Program led by the University of North Texas in the US and the Universidad de Magallanes in Chile (www.chile.unt.edu).

Weekly Organization of Activities
Tuesdays: Emphasis on US environmental ethics. Most group presentations by students, most classes a quiz
Thursdays: Overview of the theme of the week with complementary perspectives from the UNT-Chile Biocultural Conservation Program perspective, graded quizzes are returned to students. Occasional quizzes and students ppt presentations.

Evaluation
1. 15%: Short group presentations
2. 40% Weekly quizzes
3. 20% Mid-term exams (I & II, 10% each)
4. 15% Final exam
5. 10% Participation in class (including initial personal ppt, see below)
Letter and numerical grades are translatable on the following scale:

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

You are responsible for knowing the UNT policy on academic dishonesty that can be found at:
http://www.vpaa.unt.edu/academic-integrity.htm

Disability Accommodation (ODA Statement):
“The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at http://www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.”

Drop/Withdrawal Information:
If you wish to drop the class, please refer for scheduling and deadline information to:
http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/schedule/scheduleclass.html

First Group Presentation: Each group of 2 or 3 students will conduct research and prepare a presentation together of a 15 min. power point to show on the Tuesday session to the class. Each group will submit by email to Cristina Bovinette (crbovinette@gmail.com), the power point presentation by Thursday at 12 PM the week before the presentation. Each group will be organized with the following roles for each student:

**Student 1 (4 minutes):** Provides a general introduction about the topic. This introduction should include a map with the main geographic area(s), author(s), period of time, and other relevant information about the context in which the central concepts were developed. This work will require complementary bibliographic resources that complement the description provided by the assigned reading.

**Student 2 (4 minutes):** Based on the work of student 1 and the assigned reading, the student will identify and characterize the central ecological concepts, i.e. the way the natural and social worlds are understood.

**Student 3 (4 minutes):** Based on the work of student 1 & 2, the student will identify and characterize central ethical concepts and practices, i.e. the way the author or ethnic group inhabits the world.

**Group synthesis (3 minutes):** Based on the work by students 1, 2 and 3, the group will evaluate the interrelationships between ecological and ethical concepts, i.e. the interrelationships between the ways the natural and social worlds are understood and inhabited. The group should assess the implications that this analysis can have for biocultural conservation today, including contemporary international policies, and treatises, and present two last slides with 3 criticisms, and 3 learned lessons.

Each student will present two slides at the beginning of her/his ppt: one slide with her/his name and native habitat (where she/he comes from or was born), and another slide on her/his favorite habits, and how these habits are related to the habitat presented in the first slide.

50% of the grade will depend on the individual presentation; 50% of the grade will depend on the group presentation as a whole. Two random groups will be evaluators for each presentation, and suggest a grade to the TA and Faculty. See the document *Evaluation guidelines for short presentations* in blackboard.
Second Group Presentation - Summary ppt presentation: Each group presents one slide per student with a quote of the semester’s readings which represents the lesson that was the most valuable or the one with which she/he most disagrees with, and state the justification in one or two sentences. It includes 2 to 3 slides per group, and 3 minutes of time.

All ppt will be posted on blackboard and will be considered as readings for Midterms and Final Exam.

Required readings: Please check the Phil 2050 blackboard webpage regularly for articles and additional resources required for the class. All readings are posted on the UNT’s Phil 2500 course blackboard. Foundational papers of environmental ethics, and core associated articles and materials are grouped in folders for each major thematic unit.

Unit I: DIRECT ENCOUNTERS WITH BIODIVERSITY – Thinking Like a Mountain
Core readings:
- Leopold, Aldo. 1949. Thinking Like a Mountain.
- Primack, R. 2007. The Three Primatologists (short box)

Film: Ecotourism with a hand lens “The Invisible Journey” by Jaime Sepúlveda (2012), Santiago, Chile

Unit II: RECIPROCAL LINKS BETWEEN ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES & ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS – The Land Ethic
Core readings:

Film: Homage to the Yahgans: the last Indians of Tierra del Fuego and Cape Horn by Anne Chapman and CNRS-Audiovisuel, Watertown, MA (1992). http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b3925218~S6

Unit III: DIVERSITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL NARRATIVES IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION – The historical roots of our ecological crisis
Core readings:
- Boff, L. Interview with Ricardo Rozzi.
- MacIntyre, A. After Virtue. Preface.
- Primack, R. 2007. World Religions and Conservation (short box)

Film III.2: Brother Sun – Sister Moon by Franco Zefirelli (1972).
Film III.3: Interview with Leonardo Boff by Ricardo Rozzi (2006).
Unit IV: PREVALENCE OF UTILITARIAN ETHICS – The Tragedy of the Commons
Core readings:
- Cox, S. 1985. No Tragedy of the Commons. *Environmental Ethics* 7:

Unit V: SYSTEMIC PERSPECTIVES ON ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND SCIENCES– Deep Ecology
Core readings:

Tentative Schedule

Unit I: DIRECT ENCOUNTERS WITH BIODIVERSITY – Thinking Like a Mountain

**Week 1 (Aug 29)**

**Thursday:** Introduction to the course

Documentary *The Invisible Journey: Ecotourism with a hand-Lens* by Jaime Sepúlveda (2012), Chile

**Week 2 (Sep 3)**

**Tuesday:** *Thinking Like a Mountain*  
*Quiz 1* on Thinking Like a Mountain by Aldo Leopold (1949)

**Thursday:** *Overview Thinking Like a Mountain and Direct Encounters with Biodiversity*

[http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol11/iss1/art43/](http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol11/iss1/art43/)

**Week 3 (Sep 10)**

**Tuesday:** *Living with the Land Ethic*  
Presentations by:
- Group 1 Carl Leopold: Living with the Land Ethic  
- Group 2 Short biographies and main ecological and ethical concepts of:
  - Henry Thoreau  
  - George Perkins Marsh  
  - John Muir
Group 3 Short biographies and main ecological and ethical concepts of:
  Aldo Leopold
  Albert Schweitzer
  Rachel Carson

**Thursday:** Living the Land Ethic & Field Environmental Philosophy

**Required readings:**
- Primack, R. 2007. The Three Primatologists

Presentations by:
  Group 4 Short biographies and main ecological and ethical concepts of:
    Arne Naess
    Edward O. Wilson
    Van Rensselaer Potter
  Group 5 Short biographies and main ecological and ethical concepts of:
    Edith Brown Weiss
    David Ray Griffin
    Ricardo Rozzi
  Group 6 Field Environmental Philosophy

**Unit II: RECIPROCAL LINKS BETWEEN ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES & ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS – The Land Ethic**

**Week 4 (Sep 17)**

**Tuesday:** The Land Ethic.  
**Quiz 3 on Aldo Leopold (1949) The Land Ethic**

Presentations by:
  Group 14 The Ethical Sequence & The Community Concept (The Land Ethic I)
  Group 15 The Ecological Conscience & Substitutes for a Land Ethic (The Land Ethic II)
  Group 16 The Land Pyramid, Land Health and the A-B Cleavage & The Outlook (The Land Ethic III)

**Thursday:** The Land Ethic & The reciprocal links between evolutionary-ecological sciences and environmental ethics

**Week 5 (Sep 24)**

**Tuesday:** The reciprocal links between evolutionary-ecological sciences and environmental ethics  

Presentation by:
  Group 17 The reciprocal links between evolutionary-ecological sciences and environmental ethics, BioScience 49 (11): 911-915

**Film:** *Homage to the Yahgans: the last Indians of Tierra del Fuego and Cape Horn* by Anne Chapman and CNRS-Audiovisuel, Watertown, MA (1992). [http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b3925218~S6](http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b3925218~S6)
Thursday: Summary and review Unit I

Week 6 (Oct. 1)

TUESDAY: MID TERM I (UNITS I & II)

Unit III: DIVERSITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL NARRATIVES IN WESTERN CIVILIZATION – The historical roots of our ecological crisis

Group 18 Piere Paolo Pasolini & *Uccellini - Uccellacci*

Week 7 (Oct 8)
Presentations by:
Group 12 The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis Science 155: 1203-1206.
Group 11 The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis Science 155: 1206-1207 (An Alternative Christian View – Saint Francis)

Thursday: Overview and presentation of Lynn White’s *The Historical Roots of the Ecological Crisis* & required reading Chapter 2 of *Earth’s Insights*. The Historical Roots of Western European Environmental Attitudes and Values
Presentations by:
Group 19 Bible: Environmental Attitudes and Values, based on Chapter 2 of *Earth’s Insights*. The Historical Roots of Western European Environmental Attitudes and Values

Week 8 (Oct 15)
Tuesday: Quiz 6 on Chapter 2 *Earth’s Insights*. The Historical Roots of Western European Environmental Attitudes and Values
Presentations by:
Group 20 Heraclitus and Early Greek: Environmental Attitudes and Values, based on *Earth’s Insights* Chapter 2
Group 21 Islam: Environmental Attitudes and Values, based on *Earth’s Insights* Chapter 2
Group 22 Gaia: Environmental Attitudes and Values, based on *Earth’s Insights* Chapter 2

Presentations by:
Quiz 7 on Chapter 10 Earth’s Insights. Traditional Environmental Ethics in Action
Presentations by:
Group 23 US Farmers Christian, based on *Earth’s Insights* Chapter 10
Group 24 Chipko, based on *Earth’s Insights* Chapter 10
Group 25 Buddhist, based on *Earth’s Insights* Chapter 10
**Week 9 (Oct 22)**

**Tuesday:** Film *Brother Sun – Sister Moon* by Franco Zeffirelli (1972).

**Thursday:** Saint Francis and Liberation Ecotheology

Presentations by:
- Group 26 Saint Francis - Canticle of the Sun (Laudes Creaturarum - Praise of the Creatures) & Canticle of Daniel (Canticle of the three young men)
- Group 27 Leonardo Boff Ecotheology

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**Week 10 (Oct 29)**

**Tuesday:**

*Quiz 8 on* Gare, A. 1998. MacIntyre, narratives, and environmental ethics. Environmental Ethics 2-21.
- MacIntyre, A. After Virtue. Preface.

Presentations by:
- Group 9 Aaran Gare (MacIntyre, narratives, and environmental ethics)
- Group 8 MacIntyre, A. After Virtue. Preface.

**Thursday:**

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**Week 11 (Nov 5)**

**TUESDAY: MID TERM II (UNIT III)**

**Unit IV: PREVALENCE OF UTILITARIAN ETHICS – The Tragedy of the Commons**

**Thursday:**


Presentation by:
- Group 28 Hardin’s Tragedy of the Commons, Science 162: 1243-1245.

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**Week 12 (Nov 12)**

**Tuesday:**


Presentation by:
- Group 30 No Tragedy of the Commons.

**Thursday:**

Over view Tragedy of the Commons

Required readings:

Presentations by:
- Group 31 Kayapo environmental ethics
- Group 32 Tukano environmental ethics
- Group 33 Mapuche & Yahgan environmental ethics
Unit V: SYSTEMIC PERSPECTIVES ON ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS AND SCIENCES—Deep Ecology

Week 13 (Nov 19)
Tuesday: Ecological Sciences and Environmental Ethics
Quiz 11 on:
Presentation by:
Group 34 *Natural Drift – Post-Modern Metaphor*

Thursday: Deep Ecology
Presentations by:
Group 7 *Arne Naess & Deep Ecology*

Week 14 (Nov 26)
Tuesday: The metaphysical implications of ecology

Week 15 (Dec 3)
Tuesday: Summary ppt presentations by Groups 1 to 17

Thursday: Summary ppt presentations by Groups 18 to 34

Week 16 (Dec 2)
Final Exam