Course Information

- Instructor: Dane Scott
- Autumn 2017
- MWF, Section 1: 9:00-9:50; Section 2, 10:00 to 10:50
- RM: Section 1: Liberal Arts 140, Section 2: Forestry 106
- Email: Dane.scott@mso.umt.edu
- Office: Mansfield Center, MLIB 464
- Office hours: MW 2:00-3:00
- Teaching Assistant: Alice Lubeck
- Email: alice.lubeck@umconnect.umt.edu
- Office: Clapp 460
- Office hours: TBA

Course Objectives

Students will demonstrate:

- An understanding of several approaches to moral reasoning and the basic concepts of important ethical traditions
- A familiarly with the major figures and ideas that shaped modern conservation ethics
- A familiarity with significant controversies and issues in contemporary conservation
- The ability to identify and analyze ethical issues arising from environmental problems
- The ability to write a clearly organized and well supported argumentative essay

Required Texts

- Minteer & Pyne, *After Preservation*
- Rockström & Klum, *Big World, Small Planet: Abundance within Planetary Limits*

Requirements and Grading

- 20 points (20%), Participation and Attendance: Participation grades will be based on three factors: attendance, involvement in “discussion-days”, and random quizzes on readings and lectures.
- 40 points (40%) Essays 1& 2 (20 pts/each): Students will demonstrate the ability to construct an argumentative essay. You will receive handouts on the requirements, grading, and due dates for the two essay assignments.
- 40 points (40%), Tests 1 & 2 (20 pts/each): The format will be short-answer and essay questions.

**Grading Scale:** 93-100 = A; 90-92 = A-; 88-89 = B+; 83-87 = B; 80-82 = B-; 78 - 79 = C+; 73 - 77 = C; 70 - 72 = C-; 69 -68 = D+; 67 - 62 = D; 61-60 = D-; Below 59 = F

Late Work and Make-up Policies

Make-up tests will only be allowed if the instructor is informed *prior* to the test. Late papers will be penalized 4 pts/day after the due date.
OUTLINE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

Part I: Ethical Theories, Moral Reasoning, and Environmental Ethics

Week 1
- 9/1: Course Introduction & Sandel, Chapter 1, “Do the Right Thing”

Week 2
- 9/4: Labor Day, No Class
- 9/8: Peter Singer, "The Place of Nonhumans in Environmental Issues" (Moodle)

Week 3
- 9/11: Ursula LeGuin, “The One’s Who Walk Away From Omelas” (Moodle); Radio Lab, “The Rhino Hunter” (Moodle)
- 9/13: Sandel, Chapter 3, “Do We Own Ourselves / Libertarianism”
- 9/15: Sandel, Chapter 4, “Hired Help / Markets and Morals”

Week 4
  9/21: Last day to drop, add, or make registration changes on CyberBear
- 9/22: Garret Hardin, “Tragedy of the Commons” (Moodle)

Week 5
- 9/25: Sandel, Chapter 8, "Who Deserves What? / Aristotle"
- 9/27: Adler, “A Conservative’s Response to Climate Change” (Moodle); Mike Hulme, “Climate Change and Virtue: An Apologetic” (Moodle)
- 9/29: Test Part I

Part II: Ethics and the Evolution of Conservation

Week 6
- 10/2: John Muir, “The American Forests” & “Hetch Hetchy Valley” (Moodle); Max Oelschlaege, “The Roots of Preservation: Emerson, Thoreau, and the Hudson River School” (Moodle); James Brannon, “Radical Transcendentalism: Emerson, Muir and the Experience of Nature” (Moodle)
- 10/4: Gifford Pinchot, “Principles of Conservation” & “Congressional Testimony on Hetch Hetchy” (Moodle); Char Miller, “The Greening of Gifford Pinchot” (Moodle)
- 10/6: Various articles on the debate over the transfer of public lands to states (Moodle)
  Essay #1 Assigned, Topic: Moral philosophy and the debate over the transfer of public lands, Due 10/13.

Week 7
- 10/9: Leopold, “Land Ethics” (Moodle)
- 10/11: Leopold, “The Farmer as Conservationist” & "Thinking Like a Mountain" (Moodle)
- 10/13: Carson, “The Obligation to Endure” (Moodle); Eliza Griswold, “How “Silent Spring” Ignited the Environmental Movement” (Moodle)
  Essay #1 Due

Week 8
- 10/16: Ehrlich, “The Population Bomb” (Moodle); Ehrlich, “The Population Bomb Revisited” (Moodle)
• 10/18: Commoner, "The Closing Circle: Nature, Man, and Technology" (Moodle)
• 10/20: Mark Sagoff, “Do We Consume Too Much?” (Moodle)

Week 9
• 10/23: Andrew Feenberg, “Environmentalism and the Politics of Technology” (Moodle)
• 10/25: Meadows, et al., “A Synopsis: Limits to Growth: The 30-Year Update” (Moodle)
• 10/27: Rockström & Klum, Big World, Small Planet, Section I
• 10/27: Spring graduation apps due

Week 10
• 10/30: Rockström & Klum, Big World, Small Planet, Section I
• 11/1: Rockström & Klum, Big World, Small Planet, Section II
  11/2: Last day to drop classes w/o Dean’s approval
• 11/3: Rockström & Klum, Big World, Small Planet, Section III

Week 11
• 11/6: Test Part II

Part III: Contemporary Ethical Debates in Conservation
• 11/8: Michael Soule, “What is Conservation Biology?”
• 11/10: No Class, Veteran’s Day

Week 12
• 11/15: Ellis, "Too Big for Nature" After Preservation

Week 13
• 11/23: Emma Marris "Humility in the Anthropocene" After Preservation
• 11/22: No Class, Travel Day
• 11/24: No Class, Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14
• 11/29: Light, “Ecological Restoration and the Culture of Nature: A Pragmatic Perspective” (Moodle)
• 12/1: Readings TBA on ecological restoration in wilderness

Week 15
• 12/4: Ben Minteer "When Extinction is a Virtue" After Preservation
• Essay # 2 Assigned, various topics on ethics and conservation in the Anthropocene, Due 12/14, no later than 5:00 PM
• 12/6: Vucetich, Nelson, Batavia "The Anthropocene: Disturbing Name, Limited Insight" After Preservation
• 12/8: Curt Meine "A Letter to the Editors: In Defense of the Relative Wild" After Preservation

Week 16
• 12/11: Donald Worster "The Higher Altruism" After Preservation
• 12/14: Essay #2 Due no later than 5:00 PM
UM Policies
Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting me. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction for students with disabilities in collaboration with instructors and Disability Services for Students, which is located in Lommasson Center 154. The University does not permit fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications.

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code.