

# SYLLABUS

## Course Information

Course: NRSM489E, Section 1, Conservation & Forestry Ethics

CRN: 72677

Semester: Autumn 2016

Time: TuTh 8:00-9:20

Location: Native American Center (NAC) 103

Instructor: Ashley Preston

Email: [Ashley.preston@umontana.edu](mailto:Ashley.preston@umontana.edu)

Office: CHCB 467

Office hours: CHCB 467: TTR 9:30-10:30; HB02 (Missoula College): MW 12:30-1:30 or by appointment

## Course Objectives

Students will demonstrate:

- An understanding of several approaches to moral reasoning and the basic concepts of important ethical traditions
- A familiarity 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

Michael Sandel, Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?

Minteer & Pyne, After Preservation

Anthony Weston, A Rulebook for Arguments

## Course Requirements/Policies

**Point distribution** (Tentative--subject to change at instructor discretion)

Participation: 20 pts

Essay #1: 20 pts

Essay #2: 20 pts

Test #1: 20 pts

Test #2: 20 pts

**Participation:** Participation grades will be based on three factors: attendance, involvement in “discussion-days”, and random quizzes/writing assignments on readings and lectures. In-class assignments/quizzes cannot be made up.

**Essays:** Students will demonstrate the ability to construct an argumentative essay. See Moodle for the requirements, grading, and due dates (also in Outline of Topics and Readings, below) for the two essay assignments. Late papers are not accepted.

**Tests:** The format for exams will be short-answer and essay questions. Exams cannot be made up without prior notice/arrangement.

## Policies

- Plagiarism: Blatant plagiarism will result in an automatic F on the assignment and the course.
- Make-up tests will only be allowed if the instructor is informed *prior* to the test.
- Late papers are not accepted. "Late" means any time after 8:00 a.m. unless otherwise stated.
- Grading Scale: The +/- grading system will be used as follows:  
93-100 = A; 90-92 = A-; 88-89 = B+; 83-87 = B; 80-82 = B-; 78 - 79 = C+; 73 - 77 = C; 65 - 72 = C-;  
64 -62 = D+; 61 - 60 = D; 59 - 55 = D-; Below 54 = F I do not round up—the first two digits are your grade.

## Student Conduct Code

[Student Conduct Code](#)

## Important Dates and Deadlines

- Official Dates and Deadlines Autumn 2016
- [Dates and Deadlines Link](#)

## Disability modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

## OUTLINE OF TOPICS AND READINGS\*

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

#### Week 1

8/30

Course Introduction

9/1

Sandel, Chapter 1, "Do the Right Thing"

Plato, *The Ring of Gyges* (Posted on Moodle Page)

Plato, *Crito* (Posted on Moodle Page)

Plato, *The Allegory of the Cave* (Posted on Moodle)

#### Week 2

9/6

Sandel, Chapter 2, "The Greatest Happiness Principle" / Utilitarianism

9/8

*Discussion Day*

Ursula LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas" (Posted on Moodle)

David Brooks, "The Child in the Basement" (Posted on Moodle)

#### Week 3

9/13

Sandel, Chapter 3, "Do We Own Ourselves / Libertarianism"

Gifford Pinchot, "Principles of Conservation" (Posted on Moodle Page)

Char Miller, "The Greening of Gifford Pinchot" (Posted on Moodle Page)

9/15

*Discussion Day*

Adler, "A Conservative's Response to Climate Change" (Posted on Moodle)

Week 4

9/20

Sandel, Chapter 4, “Hired Help / Markets and Morals”  
Sandel, Chapter 5, “What Matters is the Motive / Immanuel Kant”

9/22

No Class

Week 5

9/27

Sandel, Chapter 8, "Who Deserves What? / Aristotle"  
Vonnegut, “Harrison Bergeron” (Posted on Moodle)  
Ronald Sandler “Introduction: Environmental Virtue Ethics” (Posted on Moodle)

9/29

*Discussion Day*

Thomas Hill, "Ideals of Human Excellence and Preserving the Natural Environment"  
(Moodle)

Week 6

10/4

**Test #1, Part I**

**Part II: Landmarks in Environmental Thought**

10/6

John Muir, “The American Forests,” “A Wind-storm in the Forest,” & “Hetch Hetchy Valley” (Moodle)  
Gifford Pinchot, “Congressional Testimony on Hetch Hetchy” (Posted on Moodle)

Week 7

10/11

Leopold, “Land Ethics” (Posted on Moodle)  
Leopold, “The Farmer as Conservationist”, "Land Use and Democracy" (Posted on Moodle)

10/13

*Discussion Day*

Carson, *Silent Spring* “The Obligation to Endure” (Posted on Moodle)  
Griswold, “How *Silent Spring* Ignited the Environmental Movement”  
Ehrlich, “The Population Bomb” &  
Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” (Posted on Moodle)

Week 8

10/18

Commoner, "The Closing Circle: Nature, Man, and Technology" (Posted on Moodle)  
Dreier, “Remembering Barry Commonor” (Posted on Moodle)

10/20

**Test #2, Part II**

Week 9

10/25

Weston, *A Rule Book for Arguments*, Chapters I & II

10/27

Weston, *A Rule Book for Arguments*, Chapters III, IV & V  
**Essay #1 Assigned, Due 11/15**

Week 10

11/1

Katz, "The Big Lie: Human Restoration of Nature" (Moodle)

11/3

Light, "Ecological Restoration and the Culture of Nature: A Pragmatic Perspective" (Moodle)

**Part III: Contemporary Ethical Issues in Conservation**

Week 11

11/8

No Class—VOTE!

11/10

Erle Ellis, "Too Big for Nature" *After Preservation*

Kareiva, et al "Conservation in the Anthropocene: Beyond Solitude and Fragility" (Moodle)

Hettinger, "Valuing Naturalness in the Anthropocene"

Week 12

11/15

**Essay #1 DUE**

An EcoModernist Manifesto (Posted on Moodle)

11/17

*Discussion Day*

Holmes Rolston "After Preservation? Dynamic Nature in the Anthropocene" *After Preservation*

Week 13

11/22

Dave Foreman "The Anthropocene and Ozymandias" *After Preservation*

**Final Essay (Essay #2)/Term Paper Assigned, DUE 12:10 PM Friday 12/16 (Submit hard copy to CHCB 467)**

11/24

No Class, Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 14

11/29

Vucetich, Nelson, Batavia "The Anthropocene: Disturbing Name, Limited Insight" *After Preservation*

Emma Marris "Humility in the Anthropocene" *After Preservation*

Additional materials on Moodle (videos, readings)

12/1

*Discussion Day*

Donald Worster "The Higher Altruism" *After Preservation*

Week 15

12/6

Ben Minteer "When Extinction is a Virtue" *After Preservation*

Curt Meine "A Letter to the Editors: In Defense of the Relative Wild" *After Preservation*

Additional videos and readings posted on Moodle.

12/8

*Discussion Day*

Jack Turner "Abstract Wild: A Rant" (Posted on Moodle)

Week 16  
12/16

**Final Essay/Term Paper (Essay #2) DUE at 12:10 to CHCB467**

\*Schedule may be changed as the course progresses