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
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
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 Commoner” (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

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

*Schedule may be changed as the course progresses