Environmental Justice

Government 60.10
Spring 2015
Dartmouth College

Professor Julie Rose 11 (MWF 11:15-12:20)
Silsby 202
Office Hours: Wednesday 3:00-5:00

X: Tuesday 12:00-12:50

Course Description

This course examines how principles of justice apply to our environmental choices and public policies. We begin by examining the moral status of animals and what principles ought to govern our individual behavior and our public policies regarding animals, particularly in agriculture and research. We will then explore how far the circle of moral concern ought to extend, examining anthropocentric, biocentric, and ecocentric theories and their implications for the conservation of species, ecosystems, and wilderness. Following this extension, we will return to human-centered approaches, with cost-benefit analysis and environmental justice approaches to pollution and toxic waste siting. In the final section of the course, we will examine in greater depth the ethics of climate change, considering what our obligations are to future generations, how developed and developing nations are differentially responsible for climate change and its remediation, and what obligations individuals bear to contribute to sustainability and limit consumption.

Course Objectives

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

• Identify and describe the leading approaches to, and the key questions and concepts of, environmental ethics
• Engage with deep questions about the value of nature, our obligations to other species and future generations, and the just allocation of environmental risks and benefits
• Construct and evaluate philosophical arguments about environmental ethics and policy
• Analyze the theoretical foundations and disputes underlying contemporary debates about environmental policy, and use those theoretical resources to reach more well-grounded and reasoned positions

Course Requirements

There are four course requirements:

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage of Final Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation (incl. quizzes)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper (6-8 pages)</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Make-up exams will not be granted without a valid reason and advance notice. Unless there is a valid excuse, late papers will be penalized a full letter grade for every day late.

Your participation grade depends on your punctual attendance, your contributions to class discussions, and regular quizzes. You must do the assigned reading in advance of each class and participate in class discussions. If you are hesitant about participating, meet with me. However, do not speak simply for the sake of doing so. Comments that indicate that you have not done the reading will hurt rather than help your participation grade.

There will be frequent unannounced quizzes on the assigned readings. These will be open book and open note. You must be in class that day to take the quiz; no make-up quizzes will be granted. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

Readings

There are two required texts, available for purchase at the Dartmouth bookstore:


All other required readings will be posted on Canvas.

The readings will be limited to around 75-100 pages per week. The readings require careful attention, so read thoroughly and carefully. It is to be expected that you will need to read some of the texts more than once to understand the arguments.

It is advisable, though not required, to bring your text with you to class.

Class Format

Class sessions will combine lecture and discussion (sometimes in small groups, sometimes as a whole). I encourage you to interrupt the lectures to ask clarificatory or substantive questions. It is important that you come to class having done the assigned readings and prepared to discuss them. I will sometimes call on students who have not volunteered an answer; you are welcome to pass. There will be regular unannounced quizzes on the readings. There will be two in-class debates.

Class Policies

*Office Hours:* I will hold regular office hours on Wednesday, 3:00-5:00. If you would like to meet another time, do not hesitate to email me and we can make an appointment.

*Honor Policy:* Students are required to abide by the Academic Honor Principle (http://www.dartmouth.edu/~uja/honor). Plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you are ever in doubt about what the honor code requires, or what citations are required or how much collaborating or paraphrasing is permissible, do not hesitate to ask me. Otherwise, err on the side of caution.
X-Hours: As noted below, I will use the X-hours in weeks 3, 4, and 5. I may schedule additional X-hours; if so, I will give significant advance notice.

Email: I will reply promptly whenever possible, but I am often traveling or otherwise away from email. I will reply to emails within 48 hours. If you have not heard back from me by then, send your message again.

Laptops and electronics: Laptops and other electronics are prohibited in class. You will remember more and be more present if you take notes by hand. See: www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/the-case-for-banning-laptops-in-the-classroom

Median Grade: In accordance with the Government Department policy, unless there are extraordinary circumstances, the median grade will not exceed a B+.

Learning disabilities: Students with disabilities who may need disability-related academic adjustments and services are encouraged to see me privately as early as possible in the term. Students requiring disability-related academic adjustments and services must consult the Student Accessibility Services office (205 Collis Student Center, 646-9900, Student.Accessibility.Services@Dartmouth.edu). Once SAS has authorized services, students must show the originally signed SAS Services and Consent Form and/or a letter on SAS letterhead to their professor. As a first step, if students have questions about whether they qualify to receive academic adjustments and services, they should contact the SAS office. All inquiries and discussions will remain confidential.

Religious observances: Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that occur during this academic term. If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me before the end of the second week of the term to discuss appropriate accommodations.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Subject to change with advance notice.

Week 1: Introduction

March 30: Course Overview
  • Richard Sylvan, “Is There a Need for a New, an Environmental Ethic” (8 pp.)
  • Bryan Norton, “Environmental Ethics and Weak Anthropocentrism” (13 pp.)

April 1: Morality and Justice

April 3: Cancelled.
Week 2: The Moral Status of Animals

April 6: The Utilitarian Case
- Peter Singer, “All Animals Are Equal” (23 pp.)
- Robert Nozick, “Animals and Constraints” (3 pp.)

April 8: The Non-Consequentialist Case
- Immanuel Kant, “Duties to Animals” (2 pp.)
- Tom Regan, “The Case for Animal Rights” (8 pp.)
- Christine Korsgaard, “Facing the Animal You See in the Mirror” (6 pp.)

April 10: The Case for Speciesism
- Bernard Williams, “The Human Prejudice” (18 pp.)

Week 3: Animal Rights

April 13: Raising and Eating Animals
- Peter Singer and Jim Mason, *The Ethics of What We Eat*, pp. 42-68 (27 pp.)
- Roger Scruton, *Animal Rights and Wrongs*, pp. 59-95 (37 pp.)

April 14 (X-Hour): Using Animals for Research
- Carl Cohen, “The Case for the Use of Animals in Biomedical Research” (5 pp.)
- Dale Jamieson, “Against Zoos” (6 pp.)

April 15: Class Debate on Factory Farming

Week 4: Anthropocentrism, Biocentrism, and Ecocentrism

April 20: Anthropocentrism, Biocentrism, and Ecocentrism
- Paul W. Taylor, “The Ethics of Respect for Nature” (22 pp.)
- Aldo Leopold, “The Land Ethic” (8 pp.)

April 21 (X-Hour): Critiques of Biocentrism and Ecocentrism
- Elliot Sober, “Philosophical Problems for Environmentalism” (19 pp.)
- Harley Cahen, “Against the Moral Considerability of Ecosystems” (20 pp.)

April 22: Valuing Nature
- John Muir, “Hetch Hetchey Valley” (2 pp.)
Week 5: Conservation

April 27: Conflicts between Individuals, Species, and Systems
- Mark Sagoff, “Animal Liberation and Environmental Ethics: Bad Marriage, Quick Divorce” (10 pp.)
- Karen Lange, “Desperate Measure” (2 pp.)

April 28 (X-Hour): Conflicts with Human Interests
- Holmes Rolston III, “Feeding People versus Saving Nature?” (19 pp.)
- Ramachandra Guha, “Radical Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third World Critique” (13 pp.)

April 29: *In-class midterm exam on weeks 1-5.*

Week 6: Environmental Economics

May 4: Cost-Benefit Analysis
- William Baxter, “The Case for Optimal Pollution” (4 pp.)
- David Schmidtz, “A Place for Cost-Benefit Analysis” (23 pp.)
- Larry Summers, “Memo on Dirty Industries” (2 pp.)
*Paper topic announced; due May 18.*

May 6: Critiques of Cost-Benefit Analysis
- Mark Sagoff, “At the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima or Why Political Questions are not All Economic” (16 pp.)
- Steven Kelman, “Cost-Benefit Analysis: An Ethical Critique” (8 pp.)

May 8: The Tragedy of the Commons
- Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons” (6 pp.)
- Elinor Ostrom, et al., “Revisiting the Commons” (5 pp.)
- Amartya Sen, “Population: Delusion and Reality” (15 pp.)

Week 7: Environmental Justice

May 11: Environmental Justice
- Kristen Shrader-Frechette, *Environmental Justice*, pp. 3-17, 23-48 (41 pp.)
- Christian Hunold and Iris Marion Young, “Justice, Democracy, and Hazardous Siting” (13 pp.)

May 13: Consent and Environmental Risk
- Kristin Shrader-Frechette, “Consent and Nuclear Waste Disposal” (15 pp.)

May 15: Class Debate on Keystone Pipeline
Week 8: Climate Change – Future Generations

May 18: Climate Change Ethics Overview
   • Stephen Gardiner, “Ethics and Global Climate Change” in CE (37 pp.)
     * Paper due.

May 20: Obligations to Future People
   • Brian Barry, “Justice Between Generations” (17 pp.)
   • Derek Parfit, “Energy Policy and the Further Future” in CE (9 pp.)

May 22: Discounting and the Precautionary Principle
   • Henry Shue, “Deadly Delays, Saving Opportunities” in CE (12 pp.)
   • Simon Caney, “Climate Change, Human Rights, and Moral Thresholds” in CE (10 pp.)

Week 9: Climate Change – Global Justice

May 25: Memorial Day. No Class.

May 27: Equal Emissions
   • Peter Singer, “One Atmosphere” in CE (20 pp.)

May 29: Cap and Trade
   • Robert Goodin, “Selling Environmental Indulgences” in CE (17 pp.)
   • Michael Sandel, “It’s Immoral to Buy the Right to Pollute,” with replies (4 pp.)
   • Michael Sandel, “Tradable Pollution Permits” (4 pp.)

Week 10: Climate Change – Individual Obligations

June 1: What to do?
   • Dale Jamieson, “When Utilitarians Should Be Virtue Theorists” in CE (12 pp.)

June 6: Final exam on weeks 1-10. 8:00am.