

PHI 5681 – MAN, NATURE AND VALUE
Dr. Howe

Course Description:

This course will examine issues in environmental philosophy by focusing upon the interrelationships between man, nature and value. The primary aim will be to look at specific metaphysical and axiological issues presented by contemporary philosophers in the field of environmental ethics. Themes to be considered include anthropocentrism, ecocentrism, holism, the idea of wilderness, the fact/value distinction, intrinsic and instrumental value theories of nature.

Texts:

J. Baird Callicott: *In Defense of the Land Ethic*

Joseph DesJardins: *Environmental Ethics: Concepts, Policy, and Theory*

Class Work:

During the first week of the semester students will be assigned material from one of the above texts. After the instructor has given introductory lectures for the course, students will be responsible for teaching/lecturing to the class on material they have been assigned. Each student will be responsible for leading and directing one week of class (two sessions). Students not leading the class will be responsible for preparing questions for the presenter of any given week. Depending on the size of the class, we may be able to schedule a second round of like sessions.

Research Paper

Each student is required to write a research paper of 18 to 20 pages (typed and double-spaced). The paper should defend a thesis that pertains directly to issues covered in the course. The instructor must approve the topic and thesis prior to middle of term

Grading:

The final course grade is primarily based upon the research paper. However, the responsibility for conducting class sessions and attendance is extremely important. If the latter requirements are not successfully met, the student may be required to do additional work before submitting the research paper.