ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Spring 2020 Syllabus

PHILOSOPHY 329
Section 001
CRN: 12285
MWF 12:00-12:50 PM
Edith Kanaka‘ole Hall 126

Dr. Timothy J. Freeman
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Office Hours: MWF 11:00-11:50 AM; 1:00 -2:50 PM and by appointment

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION
Phil 329 Environmental Ethics
Central ethical questions concerning the natural world, including environmental justice, responding to climate change and environmental devastation, and the relationship between human beings and the environment.

REQUIRED TEXT

COURSE WEB PAGE
http://tfreeman.net/Philosophy/329/
COURSE CONTENT
This course will provide an in-depth introduction to the field of environmental ethics. The course will cover a range of issues including the relationship between the human and nonhuman world, whether or not nonhuman nature has inherent rights, the problems posed by climate change, the decline of biodiversity, the loss of wilderness, the production of food, overpopulation, economic policy and globalization. We will examine a number of key texts in the development of environmental ethics.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
[Philosophy courses for GE purposes]: (As with all Philosophy courses) Students who successfully complete the course will be able to:
● respond clearly, logically and critically to examination questions and discussion questions about some important philosophical issues relevant to the course;
● read, comprehend, and discuss philosophical texts relevant to the course;
● compose effective written materials that assimilate, synthesize and reflect on course information;
● identify and describe in writing and in class discussion some important aspects of the cultural heritage and contributions of Western philosophy.

COURSE FORMAT
Classroom sessions will be both lecture and discussion.

CLASSROOM POLICIES
* All students are expected to come to class on time and to bring their books as well as paper and pen suitable for taking notes of class lectures.
* No laptop computers are to be used during class time unless used for class notes.
* Active cellular telephones or paging devices are not permitted in class.
* No consumption of food is allowed during the class period.

GRADING POLICY
The final grade will be based on the following:

1) Attendance & Classroom Participation (10%)
2) Mid-term Exam (40% each)
3) Final Term Paper (50%)

Grading will be determined according to the following scale:

A 95-100 Excellent       C + 77-79
A - 90-94               C 74-76 Satisfactory
B + 87-89               C - 70-73 Poor
B 84-86 Good            D 60-70 Failure
B - 80-83               F below 60
DISABILITY SERVICES
Any student with a documented disability who would like to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Office - Student Services Center E230, 932-7623 (V), 932-7002 (TTY), uds@hawaii.edu - as early in the semester as possible.

ACADEMIC ADVISING
Advising is a very important resource designed to help students complete the requirements of the University and their individual majors. Students should consult with their advisor at least once a semester to decide on courses, check progress towards graduation, and discuss career options and other educational opportunities provided by UH Hilo. Advising is a shared responsibility, but students have final responsibility for meeting degree requirements.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Intellectual development requires honesty, responsibility, and doing your own work. All UH Hilo students are expected to know and abide by the Student Conduct Code (https://hilo.hawaii.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/student_conduct.php). Acts of dishonesty, for example, plagiarism (taking thoughts/ideas or words from others), cheating, collusion, or other forms of academic dishonesty will possibly result in penalties, consequences, and/or other disciplinary actions. If you have any doubts or questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please do not hesitate to contact me. For information about your student rights, contact Karishma Kamath, Director of Student Conduct, 932-7472, karishma@hawaii.edu.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS
Kilohana: The Academic Success Center provides a range of free, drop-in academic services and resources to all currently enrolled UH Hilo students. Services include access to peer student staff from a range of academic majors, course-related resources (handouts, practice exams, etc.) PC desktops with subject-specific software, and study environments for individuals and small groups. Please check the Kilohana website at https://hilo.hawaii.edu/kilohana/ for information, locations, and contact phone numbers for our various Centers on campus. Daily subject tutoring hours are listed via subject google calendars at https://hilo.hawaii.edu/kilohana/tutoring.php. You can also contact Karla Hayashi, Director of the Kilohana Academic Success Center, 932-7287, karlah@hawaii.edu for more information.

MENTAL HEALTH/SUICIDE PREVENTION
The UH Hilo community is committed to and cares about all students. Life at college can get complicated. Students sometimes feel overwhelmed, lost, experience anxiety or depression, struggle with relationship difficulties, family responsibilities, or diminished self-esteem. However, supportive services are available and effective. UH Hilo Counseling Services helps undergraduate and graduate students cope with difficult emotions and life stressors. Counseling Services is staffed by experienced, professional counselors, who are attuned to the diverse needs of all types of college students. The services are FREE and completely confidential. Find out more at https://hilo.hawaii.edu/studentaffairs/counseling or by calling (808) 932-7465.

For immediate help, contact The Crisis Line of Hawaii 1-800-753-6879, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-8255 (suicidepreventionlifeline.org), or text “Aloha” or “Hello” to the Crisis Text Line 741-741.
STUDENT CONDUCT
All members of UH Hilo have the right to pursue educational endeavors as part of the institution's fundamental purposes of teaching, learning, and research. Students have the responsibility to maintain standards of personal integrity (honesty, civility, and respect) that are in harmony with the educational mission of the University; to respect the rights, privileges, and property of others; and to observe University policies as well as national, state, and local laws. The student conduct process holds students accountable for violations of university policy and all UH Hilo students are expected to know and abide by the Student Conduct Code (https://hilo.hawaii.edu/studentaffairs/conduct/student_conduct.php).

STUDENTS OF CONCERN
University life should be challenging not overwhelming. There may be times when students experience severe stress or distress from adjusting to college life and adapting to unforeseen changes/circumstances. Consider referring a friend, fellow classmate, or yourself to the UH Hilo CARE Team who can provide information, resources, and options for successfully navigating a challenging academic life. Typical referrals include behavior which raise significant concerns and reasonably suggests that the behavior, physical and/or emotional state:

- Presents safety issues for yourself or others; or
- May hinder one’s ability to meet expected standards of conduct or achieve academic requirements; or
- May be evidence of severe emotional distress

Anyone may use this (https://hilo.hawaii.edu/careteam/report.php) form to refer a UH Hilo student to the University's CARE Team. All matters discussed are regarded as highly confidential and are protected by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). If you have any questions about filing a report, please contact Karishma Kamath, the CARE Team Coordinator at (808) 932-7472, or karishma@hawaii.edu.

TITLE IX SYLLABUS
The University of Hawaii is committed to providing a learning, working and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect and is free of all forms of sex discrimination and gender-based violence, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you or someone you know is experiencing any of these, the University has staff and resources on your campus to support and assist you. Staff can also direct you to resources that are in the community. Here are some of your options:

If you wish to remain ANONYMOUS, speak with someone CONFIDENTIALLY, or would like to receive information and support in a CONFIDENTIAL setting, contact:

- UH Hilo Counseling Services: SSC, room E-203, 932-7465
- UH Hilo Medical Services: Campus Center, room 212, 932-7369
REPORTING INCIDENTS
If you wish to REPORT an incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence including sexual assault, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, domestic violence, dating violence or stalking as well as receive information and support*, contact:

- Jenna Waipa, Lead Deputy Title IX Coordinator, 932-7818, waipajk@hawaii.edu
- Jennifer Stotter, Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX Coordinator: 932-7641, eeoaa@hawaii.edu
- Kalei Rapoza, Interim Vice Chancellor for Administrative Affairs, 932-7626, kaleihii@hawaii.edu

* Please note that you do not have to file a complaint with the University to receive institutional support or assistance.

As a member of the University faculty, I am required to immediately report any incident of sex discrimination or gender-based violence to the campus Title IX Coordinator. Although the Title IX Coordinator and I cannot guarantee confidentiality, you will still have options about how your case will be handled. My goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources and support you need.

For more information regarding sex discrimination and gender-based violence, the University’s Title IX resources and the University’s Policy, Interim EP 1.204, go to: http://www.hawaii.edu/titleix

UH HILO SEXUAL ASSAULT POLICY
UH Hilo provides confidential assistance for victims of sexual assault. Counseling Services on—campus and the YWCA Sexual Support Services off — campus offer guidance regarding medical assistance and emotional help and can discuss options for reporting sexual assaults to law enforcement. All conversations are private and confidential. See UH Hilo’s Sexual Assault Policy: http://hilo.hawaii.edu/uhh/vcsa/documents/UHHSexualAssaultPolicy.pdf
For assistance during the day, contact UH Hilo Counseling Services at 808.932.7465; or, after hours and on weekends, contact the YWCA Sexual Assault Support Services at (808) 935-0677.

HUMAN RIGHTS
The University of Hawai’i at Hilo prohibits discrimination in its education programs based on race, national origin, color, creed, religion, sex, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or associational preference. If at any time during class you feel uncomfortable about what is being talked about, or feel that your human rights have been violated, please feel free to leave the room. However, I ask that you confer with me as soon as possible about what happened so that appropriate action can be taken if necessary to avoid future problems. If you are uncomfortable speaking with me about your concern, please contact Jennifer Stotter (jstotter@hawaii.edu), EEO/AA Director, at 932-7641.
COURSE SCHEDULE

PART I: IMAGES OF NATURE

Week 1: Earth in Crisis
M 01/13 Course Introduction and Orientation
W 01/15 “Can a Collapse of Global Civilization be Avoided?”
F 01/17 Film: Before the Flood

Week 2: Anthropocentrism
M 01/20 *Holiday: Martin Luther King Day*
W 01/22 “The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis”
F 01/24 Readings from Genesis, Aristotle, & Locke

Reflection on Nature 4-16

* January 15: last day to completely withdraw from courses without owing tuition. *

Week 3: Critique of Anthropocentrism
M 01/27 Readings from Darwin, Muir, Leopold, Thoreau, and Mill
W 01/29 Readings from Daniel Botkin, Vandana Shiva, and Stephen Jay Gould
F 01/31 Readings from Val Plumwood, Arne Naess, and Rachel Carson

Reflection on Nature 17-37

PART II: THEORIES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Week 4: Ethics and the Environment
M 02/03 “Is There a Need for a New Environmental Ethics?”
W 02/05 “Must a Concern for the Environment be Centered on Human Beings”
F 02/07 “On Being Morally Considerable”; “Normative Ethics”

Reflection on Nature 38-67

**February 5: last day to withdraw from courses without “W”

Week 5: Biocentrism
M 02/10 Hierarchical Biocentrism (online reading by Frederick Ferré)
W 02/12 Egalitarian Biocentrism (text reading by Paul. W. Taylor)
F 02/14 Film: Baraka

Reflection on Nature 72-81

Week 6: Zoocentrism—Animals and the Environment
M 02/17 *Holiday—President’s Day*
W 02/19 “All Animals are Equal,” Peter Singer
F 02/21 “The Moral Status of Animals,” Lori Gruen

Reflection on Nature 140-160
Week 7: Ecocentrism—The Land Ethic
M 02/24  “The Land Ethic,” Aldo Leopold
W 02/26  [From] Beyond the Land Ethic, J. Baird Callicott
F 02/28  The Gaia Hypothesis, James E. Lovelock

Reflection on Nature 72-89

PART III: ALTERNATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Week 8: Deep Ecology
M 03/02  “The Shallow and the Deep Ecology Movements,” Arne Naess
W 03/04  “The Heart of Deep Ecology,” Andrew McLaughlin
F 03/06  Discussion

Week 9: Asian Philosophy
M 03/09  Buddhism (online readings)
W 03/11  Daoism (online readings)
F 03/13  Zen Buddhism (online readings)

**Spring Recess** (March 16-20)

Week 10: Remaining Loyal to the Earth with Nietzsche
M 03/23  “On Environmental Philosophy and Continental Thought,” Steven Vogel
W 03/25  Selections from Nietzsche
F 03/27  “Zarathustra, Zhuangzi, and Zen,” Timothy Freeman

**March 27: Last Day to drop a class online with a “W”**

Week 11: Heidegger and the Question Concerning Technology
M 03/30  “The Question Concerning Technology,” Martin Heidegger
W 04/01  “The Question Concerning Technology,” Martin Heidegger
F 04/03  Discussion
PART IV: ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

Week 12: The Problem of Climate Change
M 04/06  “The Climate Catastrophe and the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage”
W 04/08  Paul Hawken and Project Drawdown (online link)
F 04/10  *Holiday—Good Friday*

Week 13: The Problem of Climate Change
M 04/13  “Global Warming in an Unequal World,” Anil Agarwal and Sunita Narain
W 04/15  “Ethics and Climate Change,” Stephen M. Gardiner
F 04/17  “Climate Change Justice,” Eric A. Posner and Cass R. Sunstein

Week 14: Ecological Crisis and Agriculture
M 04/20  Readings from Wendell Berry and Jonathan Safran Foer
W 04/22  Readings from Blake Hurst, Peter Singer and Jim Mason
F 04/24  Readings from Cora Diamond, and Evelyn Pluhar

Week 15: Population Growth and Economics
M 04/27  Population Growth (online readings from Malthus, Hardin, and McKibben)
W 04/29  The Changes Everything: Capitalism vs the Climate, Naomi Klein
F 05/01  Sustainability and the Steady-State Economy (online readings)

Week 16: Earth—A Place for Life
M 04/29  “On Wilderness and the Practice of the Wild,” Gary Snyder
W 05/01  Film: The Practice of the Wild

Final Exam
W 05/13 (11:50 AM —1:50 PM)

**schedule is subject to revision**