

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: PHIL 204 - Ethics: Animals to Ecosystems

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: Fall 2023

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Tuesday Lecture 2:30-4:20;

Thursday Seminar A 2:30-3:20, Seminar B 3:30-4:20

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Frank Jankunis

EMAIL: jankunisf@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Y319

HOURS: Wednesday 12:30-4:30

As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on theoretical ethical issues (e.g., do animals have moral standing?) as well as applied ethics (e.g., is it morally acceptable to eat meat?). There will be a major emphasis on common logical errors in constructing arguments.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

- C+ in English 12
- C in Camosun Alternative

CO-REQUISITE(S):

EQUIVALENCIES:

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

- Describe and critically assess classical and new ethical theories such as ecofeminism, deep ecology, biocentric ethics, ecocentric ethics.
- Discuss issues in applied ethics, such as vegetarianism, reproductive rights related to human population growth, moral obligations in relation to atmospheric conditions and duties to future generations.

- Identify common errors in arguments, such as the careless use of certain terms and fallacious arguments. For example, students will be alert to arguments that depend on indefensible definitions of "alive" and narrow definitions of "ecosystem" and they will be on the lookout for the very common equivocal use of "natural" in arguments on environmental issues.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

The required text is: Williston, Byron. (2022) *Environmental Ethics for Canadians*. 3rd edition. It is available in print or in e-copy.

As shown below, all other required readings will be posted to the course D2L page or can be accessed electronically through links on D2L.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Unless otherwise noted, the page numbers provided refer to the textbook.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week 1 Sept 5 & 7	<p>Introduction to the Course</p> <p><u>Sept 5</u> no readings</p> <p><u>Sept 7 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Animal Welfarism Introduction (p. 23-25) 	Seminar prep due Sept 7 at noon: fill out the student survey on D2L.
Week 2 Sept 12 & 14	<p>The Moral Standing of Animals</p> <p><u>Sept 12 readings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Introduction (p. 9-11) & ◇ Chapter 1 Moral Standing and Speciesism (p. 28-36) <p><u>Sept 14 readings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Baronett, Stan. (2013) "Analogical Arguments" (D2L) & ◇ Animal Liberation, 40 Years On (Youtube, link on D2L) 	Seminar prep due Sept. 14 at noon on D2L.
Week 3 Sept 19 & 21	<p>The Moral Standing of Animals continued</p> <p><u>Sept 19 readings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Deontology (p. 11-15) & ◇ Chapter 1 Beyond Utilitarianism (p. 36-39) & 	Seminar prep due Sept. 21 at noon on D2L.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Regan, Tom. (2004) excerpt from <i>The Case for Animal Rights</i>. (D2L) <p><u>Sept 21 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Davis, Steven L. (2003) "The Least Harm Principle may Require that Humans Consume a Diet Containing Large Herbivores, Not a Vegan Diet" (Library, link on D2L) 	
<p>Week 4 Sept 26 & 28</p>	<p>The Moral Standing of Animals continued</p> <p><u>Sept 26 readings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Social Contract Theory and Contractualism (p. 15-18) & ◇ Chapter 1 (p. 25-27) & ◇ Excerpt from Midgely, Mary. (1983) <i>Animals and Why They Matter</i> (D2L) <p><u>Sept 28 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Are Zoos Ethical? (p. 27) 	<p>Seminar prep due Sept. 28 at noon on D2L.</p>
<p>Week 5 Oct 3 & 5</p>	<p>The Political Standing of Animals</p> <p><u>Oct 3 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Chapter 1 Animal Welfarism and Animal Citizenship (p. 38-39) & ◇ Animal Citizenship (p. 39-45) <p><u>Oct 5 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ None. In-class activity. 	<p>No required seminar prep.</p>
<p>Week 6 Oct 10 & 12</p>	<p>Biocentrism</p> <p><u>Oct 10 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Chapter 2 Biocentric Egalitarianism (p. 57-70) <p><u>Oct 12 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Whyte, Ian John. (2002) "The Elephant Management Dilemma" (D2L) 	<p>Seminar prep due Oct. 12 at noon on D2L.</p>
<p>Week 7 Oct 17 & 19</p>	<p>Ecocentrism</p> <p><u>Oct. 17 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Chapter 3 The Land Ethic (p. 75-86) <p><u>Oct 19 reading</u></p>	<p>Deadline for statement of topic and outline of Essay or Persuasive Letter assignment is Oct. 20</p> <p>No required seminar prep.</p>

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ None. Review for midterm and in-class activity. 	
Week 8 Oct 24 & 26	<p>Midterm</p> <p>Oct 24: Midterm</p> <p><u>Oct 26 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Selection from Callicott, J. Baird. (2013) <i>Thinking Like a Planet</i>. (D2L) 	Seminar prep due Oct. 26 at noon on D2L.
Week 9 Oct 31 & Nov 2	<p>Ecofeminism</p> <p><u>Oct 31 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Chapter 5 Ecofeminism (p. 128-151) <p><u>Nov 2 readings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Plumwood, Val. "Being Prey" (link on D2L) & ◇ Case Study: Climate change, gender, and Intersectionality (p. 151-153) 	<p>Deadline for Essay or Persuasive Letter drafts to be submitted for feedback is Nov. 3</p> <p>Seminar prep due Nov. 2 at noon on D2L.</p>
Week 10 Nov 7 & 9	<p>Indigenous Perspectives</p> <p><u>Nov 7 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Chapter 6 Indigenous Perspectives (p. 157-168) and p. (176-180) <p><u>Nov 9 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Watt-Cloutier, Sheila. (2015) excerpt from "The Right to be Cold" (D2L) 	Seminar prep due Nov. 9 at noon on D2L.
Week 11 Nov 14 & 16	<p>Climate Change</p> <p><u>Nov 14 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Chapter 10 Climate Change I (p. 272-286) & ◇ Responsibility for Climate Change (p. 304-306) <p><u>Nov 16 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ IPCC Summary for Policymakers on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (link on D2L) 	<p>Term Paper due Nov. 17</p> <p>Seminar prep due Nov. 16 at noon on D2L.</p>
Week 12 Nov 21 & 23	<p>Climate Change continued</p> <p><u>Nov 21 reading</u></p>	Seminar prep due Nov. 23 at noon on D2L.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Chapter 10: Climate Change I (p. 284-296) & ◇ Chapter 11 Climate Change II (p. 299-304) & p. 311-323) <p><u>Nov 23 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Klein, Naomi. (2014) Excerpt from <i>This Changes Everything</i>. (D2L) 	
Week 13 Nov 28 & 30	<p>Sustainability</p> <p><u>Nov 28 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Chapter 14 Sustainability (p. 381-407) <p><u>Nov 30 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Habib, Allen. (2019) "On the Possibility of a Planetary Entitlement" 	Seminar prep due Nov. 30 at noon on D2L.
Week 14 Dec 5 & 7	<p>Biodiversity</p> <p><u>Dec 5 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Chapter 13 The Biodiversity Crisis <p><u>Dec 7 reading</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ TBD 	Seminar Prep: TBD
Final Exam Period	Final Exam scheduled by the College	The date & time will be posted Oct. 13 on myCamosun

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Midterm Oct 24	25%
Final Exam scheduled by the College	30%
Essay or Persuasive Letter. Topic and outline due Oct. 20. Drafts for feedback due Nov. 3. Final product due Nov. 17	25%
Weekly seminar activities	20%

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
<p>If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the Grade Review and Appeals policy for more information. https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf</p>	<p>TOTAL 100%</p>

Midterm and Final Exam

The Midterm will take place on the date shown above. The Final Exam will be scheduled by the College in the final exam period. Either exam can be written on an alternative day or at an alternative time only in truly exceptional circumstances or with a documented accommodation (see below). If truly exceptional circumstances occur, this should be communicated to me as soon as possible before the exam in question.

Essay or Persuasive Letter

This assignment is to produce a 5-page ethical analysis of a class topic by taking up a position on an ethical issue in this class and defending it philosophically. The assignment may take one of two basic formats. One option is to write an academic paper. The other is to write a persuasive letter to a political or other authority. Whichever format is chosen, I ask to see a statement of the topic with which you will engage and an outline of the plan for engaging with it submitted for my feedback and approval by Oct. 20. Drafts will be accepted for feedback until November 3. The due date for the finished product will be November 17. Further details on the assignment will be located on D2L.

Weekly Seminar Activities

Each week except the week of the Midterm Exam we will have a seminar activity or activities scheduled in class. These activities may be group-based or individual. **Completing any assigned seminar reading or other preparatory work is essential preparation for seminar assignments. Seminar readings and preparatory work can be found in the course schedule above. When required, preparatory work is normally to be submitted on D2L by noon on the day of seminar.**

Completion of the preparatory work and active participation in seminar activities are expected and will be components of the grade for Weekly Seminar Activities. It is recognized that active participation may take different forms. Students should bring any concerns about their participation in seminar to me as soon as possible. A provisional grade for Weekly Seminar Activities will be assigned after the Midterm exam.

A note on attendance: to account for unpredictable and/or unavoidable absences, a maximum of one seminar this semester can be missed no questions asked, without any impact to final grades. Any other unexcused absences will affect your grade for weekly seminar activities unless there are truly extraordinary circumstances. Any truly extraordinary circumstances must be communicated to me as soon as possible.

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend all class meetings and to be engaged with class activities. Technology may aid but must not distract within the classroom learning environment. Students are responsible to acquire any information they missed as a result of missing class.

This course uses D2L. Students should familiarize themselves with D2L and check in to the course website regularly for content, grades, and announcements. Instructor-provided materials and any student content located on the course D2L page should not be distributed or posted elsewhere.

Coursework is intended to be completed individually and without the use of ChatGPT or similar AI technologies.

All written coursework is expected to meet academic writing standards. See below or consult with me for resources to help with writing and other learning skills.

We will spend some time developing the norms of our classroom space during the first week. Respectful communication is a requirement at all times. This includes all class meeting times as well as any D2L or other online space.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit camosun.ca/services.

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising
Accessible Learning	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning
Counselling	camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre
Career Services	camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services
Financial Aid and Awards	camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services
International Student Support	camosun.ca/international
Learning Skills	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills
Library	camosun.ca/services/library
Office of Student Support	camosun.ca/services/office-student-support
Ombudsperson	camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson

Support Service	Website
Registration	camosun.ca/registration-records/registration
Technology Support	camosun.ca/services/its
Writing Centre	camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>
Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc.). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning>

Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-07/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

Changes to this Syllabus: Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.