

School of Arts & Science HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT PHIL 204

Environmental Ethics

Quarter or Semester/Year

COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/phil.html

COURSE OUTLINE

Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records.

Instructor Information

(a) Instructor: Karen Shirley

(b) Office hours: Tues and Thurs: 12:30 – 2:20; Wed: 11:30 – 12:20

(c) Location: Young 320

(d) Phone: 370 3518 Home: 383 8164 Email: shirleyk@camosun.bc.ca

Intended Learning Outcomes

- a) Students will be able to 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.
- b) Students will be able to comprehend, describe and critically assess classical and new ethical theories such as biocentric ethics and ecocentric ethics.
- c) Students will have developed positions on and be able to discuss issues in applied ethics, such as reproductive rights related to human population growth, moral obligations in relation to atmospheric conditions and duties to future generations.

Texts

Environmental Ethics for Canadians, ed.: Byron Williston

If your grammar needs work, you may wish to purchase a small style guide with a section on common errors in grammar and usage.

Basis of Student Assessment

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|--|-----|
| Midterm (closed book) | 25% |
| Final (Final exam period - closed book) | 25% |
| Paper (Due on Nov. 7) | 20% |
| Verbal participation (during the seminars) | 30% |

Note: Keep *all* marked assignments in case there is a discrepancy between your record of your marks and my record of your marks. 2

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to these Intended Learning Outcomes as approved by the Education Council of Camosun College.)

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

- 1. 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.
- 3. 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.

6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)

Standard Grading System (GPA)

| Percentage | Grade | Description | Grade Point Equivalency |
|------------|-------|---|----------------------------|
| 90-100 | A+ | | 9 |
| 85-89 | Α | | 8 |
| 80-84 | A- | | 7 |
| 77-79 | B+ | | 6 |
| 73-76 | В | | 5 |
| 70-72 | B- | | 4 |
| 65-69 | C+ | | 3 |
| 60-64 | С | | 2 |
| 50-59 | D | Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite. | 1 |
| 0-49 | F | Minimum level has not been achieved. | 0 |

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at **camosun.ca** for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

| Temporary Grade | Description |
|--------------------|---|
| I | Incomplete: A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family. |
| IP | In progress: A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.) |
| cw | Compulsory Withdrawal: A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement. |

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED