

BUTTE COLLEGE

COURSE OUTLINE

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

PHIL 5 - Environmental Ethics

3 Unit(s)

Prerequisite(s): NONE

Recommended Prep: Reading Level IV; English Level IV

Transfer Status: CSU/UC

51 hours Lecture

An introductory course on theories of environmental ethics and how they are applied to sustainability and environmental issues. Both traditional and contemporary, Western and non-Western theories are studied to learn various outlooks on how humans should live in nature, including how we relate to the environment, the future generations and other species. The ideas and principles are then used to find solutions to the challenges we face today such as resource depletion, pollution, climate change and species extinction.

II. OBJECTIVES

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

- A. Explain and articulate the major environmental ethical theories
- B. Summarize and critique arguments for and against various theories
- C. Develop and formulate personal outlook by synthesizing various perspectives
- D. Identify the major problems in environmental ethics and explore solutions
- E. Relate environmental ethics to other fields such as ecology, sociology and the development of new technologies
- F. Apply the theories to resolve contemporary environmental issues

III. COURSE CONTENT

A. Unit Titles/Suggested Time Schedule

Lecture

Topics

Hours

1. **Ethics and the Environment**

6.00

A. Ethics - The Concern of How to Live

B. Life and the Environment

2. **Theories of Environmental Ethics**

24.00

A. The Traditional Views

- 1. The Greco-Roman Perspective
- 2. The Judeo-Christian Perspective
- 3. The Islamic Perspective
- 4. The Hindu View
- 5. The Buddhist Attitude
- 6. The Daoist Outlook
- 7. The African Traditions
- 8. The American Traditions

B. The Contemporary Views

1. Biocentric Ethics
2. Ecocentric Ethics
3. Deep Ecology
4. The Land Ethics
5. Social Ecology
6. Ecofeminism

3. **Environmental Issues**

21.00

A. Energy, Resources and Technologies

1. Alternative Energy
2. Resource Depletion
3. Green Technologies

B. Human Impacts on Nature

1. Pollution
2. Climate Change
3. Species Extinction
4. Animal Rights

C. The Concerns for the Current and the Future Generations

1. Consumption and Lifestyles
2. Global Equality and Justice
3. Sustainable Way of Life

Total Hours

51.00

IV. **METHODS OF INSTRUCTION**

- A. Lecture
- B. Group Discussions
- C. Guest Speakers
- D. Collaborative Group Work
- E. Field Trips
- F. Homework: Students are required to complete two hours of outside-of-class homework for each hour of lecture
- G. Discussion
- H. Demonstrations
- I. Problem-Solving Sessions
- J. Reading Assignments
- K. Multimedia Presentations

V. **METHODS OF EVALUATION**

- A. Exams/Tests
- B. Research Projects

- C. Portfolios
- D. Class participation
- E. Written Assignments
- F. Written Examinations
- G. Essays and research papers
- H. Book reports
- I. Class Discussion

VI. EXAMPLES OF ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Reading Assignments
- B. Writing Assignments
- C. Out-of-Class Assignments

VII. RECOMMENDED MATERIALS OF INSTRUCTION

Textbooks:

- A. Pojman, L. P., Pojman, P.. Environmental Ethics: Readings in Theory and. 5th Edition. Wadsworth Publishing, 2008.
- B. Des Jardins, J. R.. Environmental Ethics: An Introduction to Environmental Philosophy. 4th Edition. Wadsworth Publishing, 2006.

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