**Introduction Learning Objectives:**

**Students will:**

Understand what environmental science is (and isn’t) as a discipline

Consider the role of ethics in environmental decision making, appreciating the fact that there are often several bad options (rather than one good answer)

Understand that environmental decision making often boils down to values and ethics.

Understand that environmental calculations are often difficult to do accurately.

Be able to identify various environmental ethical stances (ecocentrism, anthropocentrism, biocentrism)

Know some of the individuals who were influential in environmental ethics.

Appreciate why the study of environmental decision making is a great way to meet the University of Minnesota’s student development outcome of Tolerance for Ambiguity.

Begin to think about the roles of race and socioeconomic status on environmental decisions and who bears environmental costs.

Understand the concept of “Tragedy of the Commons”. Students will be able to identify examples of TotC and come up with their own examples.

Be able to explain the government role in environmental policy, and some of the ways this has changed over time as policy was influenced by noteworthy historical events