

IDS 201

Environmental Ethics

Instructor:	Yeqing Kong	Semester:	Spring 2019
Location:	online course	Credit Hours:	3
Office:	THE OFFICE in the Moodle	Section numbers:	201 - 601
Prerequisites:	none		

Course Overview

Interdisciplinary consideration of ways in which field of study coupled with personal/cultural values contribute towards either solving or compounding environmental problems; provides framework for process of making ethical decisions. In this interdisciplinary course we examine the ethical dimensions of some environmental issues of our day. We will explore environmental problems on a global as well as on a local basis and relate them to the value systems within societies. Special emphasis is placed on the global dimension of ecological issues and the attempt to understand the value systems of different cultures. This course examines environmental issues from ecological, ethical, political, and economic perspectives. We will explore environmental issues and problems as well as potential solutions. The ethical dimension of the course will deal with the following questions:

- Why do we approach the environment the way we do?
- Why should we care about the environment?
- What resources do we have for doing so?
- What are the obstacles involved?

Course Format

This is an internet course. All course work is done online. No campus visits are required. Moodle will be our major course tool and function as our virtual classroom. Moodle is easy to understand for students with basic computer skills. All students registered for the course will automatically have access to the course with the beginning of class. You will find it at <http://wolfware.ncsu.edu>. Please log in with your unity ID and password. We cover 15 learning modules in this course. Each module equals one week of course work of a regular semester.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

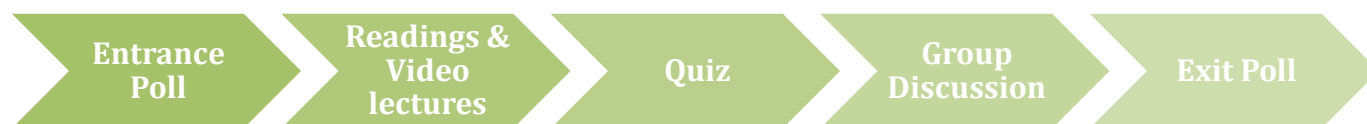
- a. Demonstrate an understanding of the similarities and differences in the approaches to environmental issues from ecological, ethical, political, and economic perspectives
 - b. Identify and describe authentic connections among ecology, ethics, politics and economics and apply these connections in the analysis of environmental issues
 - c. Explore, synthesize, and evaluate the approaches of ecology, ethics, politics and economics in a particular environmental issue
 - d. Compare and contrast value systems and other cultural aspects of different societies and their approaches to the opportunities and challenges put on them by their natural environments
 - e. Describe and analyze how societies and their culture change in response to local, regional, and global environmental pressures
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Course Organization

Each week we will cover one course module following the structure below:

- 1. ENTRY & EXIT POLLS** - Each module provides for very short, easy-to-complete entry and exit polls. Please take the entry poll before you start with the unit and the exit poll immediately after you are done with the unit. We are discussing controversial issues in this course. The polls ask for your opinion about the issues at hand. The counts of the polls are published in Moodle and makes for interesting comparisons. Your opinions are not monitored or graded, and the results are published anonymously. However, participation in the polls counts towards your final course grade.
- 2. VIDEO LECTURES** - Each module provides one or more video lectures or other multimedia. You need to gain full comprehension of the material.
- 3. WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS** - Expect approximately 50 pages of reading along with the instructor's introduction. You need to gain full comprehension of the material.
- 4. ONLINE MODULE QUIZZES** - Quizzes are multiple-choice and will cover the respective module readings and video lectures. The quizzes require comprehension, understanding and application of the materials and are closed book. Please be aware that two attempts for each quiz are accepted and the highest score will be automatically selected by the system to count towards the final grade. The quiz cuts off at the due time specified. In a typical full week, quizzes are due on Wednesday at 11pm. Timely submission of the quiz is prerequisite for proceeding to the group discussion.
- 5. ONLINE WEEKLY GROUP DISCUSSIONS** - Mandatory participation in the on-line group discussions for each module (equivalent to in-classroom discussions). These discussions require analysis and evaluation of the issues at hand. You are a member in a small discussion group in Moodle. For every module the instructor posts specific questions as **discussion prompts**. You will find detailed **grading rubrics** and instructions in Moodle. The group discussion has two main components that are individually scored and will result on a final weekly grade consisting of 15 points:
 - 1) For every module, you must **answer the discussion prompts** provided by the instructor. The maximum number of points awarded for this aspect of the discussion grade is **6 points**. Once you have posted your personal response, you will be able to see what the other members in your discussion group have posted.
 - 2) You must **respond to others in your discussion group**. **9 points** are earned by responding to others. Each response is graded on a scale between 0 and 3 points. You will find detailed grading rubrics and instructions in Moodle. Timely submission of a MINIMUM of two responses to other students' posts is prerequisite for proceeding to the next module. However, doing only the basic requirements will yield a poor grade (2 responses=80% of the grade). In other words, you need to post 3 responses to the peers to get full credits in this part. These "Group Discussions" are different from the "General Discussions" (see below).
- 6. THE WALL: GENERAL DISCUSSIONS** - Not to be confused with the weekly "Group Discussion," here on "THE WALL" you can post interesting news and start any kind of course related discussion. This is also the place to discuss technical problems with other students. Your participation on the WALL will be weighted at the end of the semester and will be used for rounding and curving grades. You have to actively participate on THE WALL (at least 4 posts in total over the semester) if you are working towards a grade in the A range for this course. Student with a numeric score of an A for the course who do not actively participate on the Wall will be downgraded! Please do not post private questions to the instructor in this forum.
- 7. "THE OFFICE"** - For communication with the instructor, please use Moodle messaging in "THE Office" only. Posts in this forum are private. Please do not email the instructor to his NCSU email account. All communication concerning this course is done in the Moodle course environment. Office hours are through internet communication and by appointment.
- 8. "ANNOUNCEMENTS"** - Please pay attention to all announcements made in Moodle throughout the semester.
- 9. WRITING ASSIGNMENT (FINAL PAPER)** - Due at the end of the semester (topic and deadline - TBA). You will find the writing assignment and its deadline in Moodle at the "TURN IT IN! - Final Paper Assignment" link. Only papers, which are correctly submitted as Word documents in the respective assignment drop box in Moodle are accepted and graded. In Moodle you will find detailed instructions on form and content of the paper in the "Assignments" link.

Here is a visualization of the workflow of each week:



Course Requirements and Grading Methods

There will be reading assignments, discussions, polls, and a multiple-choice quiz for each module. In addition, you have to participate actively in the group discussions, on the WALL and write the final paper.

Evaluation

- Class Participation - 42%
 - participation in the Group Discussions and the General Discussion forum
- Weekly Quizzes - 40%
- Writing Assignment (final paper) - 15%
- Participation in the Polls - 3%

Additionally, you have to participate actively on the WALL in order to receive a grade in the A range.

Grade Scale

98-100 A+	88-89 B+	78-79 C+	68-69 D+
93-97 A	83-87 B	73-77 C	63-67 D
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	70-72 C-	60-62 D-

- Cumulative scores lower than 60% will receive an F.
- Students taking the course as Credit-only, must earn a 70% or higher to pass the course with an "S." Conversion from letter grading to credit only (S/U) grading is subject to university deadlines. Conversion from letter grading to credit only (S/U) grading is subject to university deadlines. Refer to the Registration and Records calendar for deadlines related to grading. For more details refer to <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-15>. If you are taking this course to meet a GEP requirement do not take it as Credit Only (S/U).
- Students auditing the course complete everything but the quizzes and the final exam and must earn 70% or higher for a grade of "AU." Information about and requirements for auditing a course can be found at <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-04>.
- Students may be given an IN grade for work not completed because of a serious interruption in their work not caused by their own negligence (the definition of which follows the definition for "Excused Absences" as laid out in the university's regulation at: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03>).
- If an extended deadline is not authorized by the instructor or department, an unfinished incomplete grade will automatically change to an F after either (a) the end of the next regular semester in which the student is enrolled (not including summer sessions), or (b) the end of 12 months if the student is not enrolled, whichever is shorter. Incompletes that change to F will

count as an attempted course on transcripts. The burden of fulfilling an incomplete grade is the responsibility of the student. The university policy on incomplete grades is located at <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-50-03>.

- According to the university's grading policy "When submitted to the Department of Registration and Records, end of course grades are final and not subject to change by reason of a revision of the teacher's judgment; nor are submitted grades to be revised on the basis of a second trial (e.g., a new examination or additional work undertaken or completed)."
- The attendance policy for this course follows the university's regulations as laid out at: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03>.
- All work must be completed by its respective due date. Late work will be accepted in circumstances as laid out under "Excused Absences" at <http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-02-20-03> and suffers no penalties. **Unexcused late work is subject to a 10% grade penalty.** Excuses and notifications must be submitted in the OFFICE in Moodle. For excused makeup work the instructor and the student agree on a reasonable schedule and it has to be completed no later than the last day of exams.

Textbooks

There is no need to buy a textbook. All readings are provided in Moodle in PDF format.

Course Policies

- **Format:** This online course includes video lectures, polls, quizzes, group discussions, etc.
- **Technology Policy:** Our course Moodle site will serve as our technological home base. Please check your email and the site regularly.
- **Course Environment:** Treat others with respect. Proper classroom conduct means creating a positive learning experience for all students regardless of sex, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, social class, ability or any other feature of personal identification. Derogatory remarks will not be tolerated.
- **Attendance:** This course requires active, engaged participation on the course Moodle site. Failure to attend class will affect your participation grade as described above.
- **Public Writing:** Your work in this class is public. Don't write things for class that you wish to be private.
- **Late Work:** Late assignments are penalized as described above.
- **Assignment Submissions:** All assignments for this course should be submitted using Moodle.
- **Final Exam:** The final paper *is* the final exam.

Resources and Other Information

Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus box 7509, 515-7653. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the [Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation](http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php) (REG02.20.1) (http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/academic_affairs/courses_undergrad/REG02.20.1.php)

Academic Integrity

Students are bound by the academic integrity policy as stated in NCSU Code of Student Conduct:

http://www.ncsu.edu/policies/student_services/student_discipline/POL11.35.1.php. Students in this course are required to uphold the university pledge of honor and exercise honesty in completing every assignment and commit to the Honor Pledge, "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment" for all work they submit.

Writing and Speaking Tutoring Center

The Writing and Speaking Tutoring Center is an important resource for writers at all stages of the process. Please take advantage of their services for undergraduate students for feedback on your written or oral communication when needed.

Restriction on Sharing Content of Course Materials

Copying, distributing, downloading, and uploading information on the Internet may infringe the copyright for that information. Even an innocent, unintentional infringement violates the law. Violations of copyright law that occur on or over the university's networks or other computer resources may create liability for the university as well as the computer user.

<http://policies.ncsu.edu/regulation/reg-01-25-02>. Accordingly, repeat infringers will have their computer account and other access privileges terminated by NC State. By accessing e-reserve and course web site material you agree to the following statement: "I acknowledge that all documents made available to me for this course taught at NC State University in the current term are copyrighted and intended only for my personal use." By logging into the NCSU Wolfware web site at <http://wolfware.ncsu.edu> you certify that you will not share any content of this class with a third party without written permission from the course instructor.

Supporting Fellow Students in Distress

As members of the NC State Wolfpack community, we each share a personal responsibility to express concern for one another and to ensure that this classroom and the campus as a whole remains a healthy and safe environment for learning. Occasionally, you may come across a fellow classmate whose personal behavior concerns or worries you, either for the classmate's well-being or yours. When this is the case, I would encourage you to report this behavior to the NC State's Students of Concern website: <http://studentsofconcern.ncsu.edu/>. Although you can report anonymously, it is preferred that you share your contact information, so they can follow-up with you personally.

Inclusive Language

In an effort to affirm and respect the identities of transgender students in the classroom and beyond, please contact me if you wish to be referred to using a name or pronoun other than what is listed in the student directory.

Schedule

[Tentative and subject to change]

Week	Module	Topic	Due Dates		
			Initial posts	Module quiz	Group discussion
1	1	Introduction to the Course	Friday, 11 JAN by 11pm		Sunday, 13 JAN by 11pm
2	2	Human Needs & Easter Island Case Study	Wednesday, 16 JAN by 11pm		Friday, 18 JAN by 11pm
3	3	Ecosystems - Human Life Support Systems	Wednesday, 23 JAN by 11pm		Friday, 25 JAN by 11pm
4	4	Ethics, Ecology, and Society	Wednesday, 30 JAN by 11pm		Friday, 1 FEB by 11pm
5	5	Eco -nomy & -logy	Wednesday, 6 FEB by 11pm		Friday, 8 FEB by 11pm
6	6	U.S. Culture & Case Study on Plastic	Wednesday, 13 FEB by 11pm		Friday, 15 FEB by 11pm
7	7	The Oceans, Biodiversity & Ecotourism	Wednesday, 20 FEB by 11pm		Friday, 22 FEB by 11pm
8	8	Climate Change & Global Security	Wednesday, 27 FEB by 11pm		Friday, 1 MAR by 11pm
9	9	Energy I	Wednesday, 6 MAR by 11pm		Friday, 8 MAR by 11pm
10	SPRING BREAK, NO CLASS				

11	10	Energy II	Wednesday, 20 MAR by 11pm	Friday, 22 MAR by 11pm
12	11	The Value of Nature, Animal Rights & Buddhism	Wednesday, 27 MAR by 11pm	Friday, 29 MAR by 11pm
13	12	Freshwater, Islam & Egypt	Wednesday, 3 APR by 11pm	Friday, 5 APR by 11pm
14	13	Feeding the World	Wednesday, 10 APR by 11pm	Friday, 12 APR by 11pm
15	14	Overpopulation & The End of our World?	Wednesday, 17 APR by 11pm	Friday, 19 APR by 11pm
16	15	Our Sustainable Future	Wednesday, 24 APR by 11pm	Friday, 26 APR by 11pm

Note: Typically, the initial discussion post and quiz are due on *Wednesday at 11pm*, and group discussion response is due on *Friday at 11pm*. Pay attention to the alterations to the weekly schedule (e.g., first week, Spring break).