Contact Information

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Required Texts

All required readings will be available on the course website on Canvas, https://canvas.ucdavis.edu/

Course Description

Many people are concerned about a variety of environmental issues, from pollution to global warming to the extinction of species. They say that we "should" do something about those issues. But what ethical assumptions underlie that "should"? Is it a concern for human well-being? For animals? For all life? For species? Or, even more broadly, for ecosystems? In other words, which things count morally? The answers matter not only because we need to justify our actions, but because different answers may imply different courses of action. In this class, we will *explore* the various answers that can and have been given to this question, and see how well these answers hold up when applied to contemporary environmental case studies.

The goals of this course are: 1) to introduce you to some of the major issues within environmental ethics; 2) to encourage you to critically examine your own beliefs as well as the beliefs of others; 3) to provide the opportunity to discuss, both in class and in a more sustained written form, your ideas and arguments about important issues in environmental ethics. This class fulfills the Writing Experience (WE) GE requirement.

Class Policies

- If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please email me or come *to my office* (during office hours, or make an appointment) to discuss as soon as possible.
- You are responsible for *all* material covered in class, including announcements, discussions, etc. – whether you are in class or not. *Take notes on discussions as well as lecture*. Be aware that the topics in this class build on one another, so you will need to keep up.
- Since we will be discussing the readings in class, you should bring the reading for the day to each class.
- Announcements are usually made at the beginning of class, so *please be on time*. Comings and goings are disruptive and distracting, so please keep them to an absolute minimum.
- Do not use laptops, tablets, or cell/smart phones in class for activities unrelated to the class (texting, Twitter, Instagram, etc). A recent study shows that it hinders learning both for the user and those nearby. You might learn more taking notes by hand in any case.
- *Silence* your cell/smart phone or anything else that might make noise.
- Please do not bring guests (friends, children, etc.) without my permission.
- Eating in class is ok if it is done quietly and unobtrusively.
- Use gender neutral language in gender neutral contexts (so, "humankind" rather than "mankind", etc.).

Class Requirements

Your grade will be based on the following (all dates subject to change):
- **10%** - Comments/questions on each day's readings, **posted to Discussions on Canvas *before* class.** Each on-time posting is graded CR/NC; Late=NC; *no exceptions*.
- **30%** - Two 2-page analytical essays submitted on Canvas by **Mon Oct 22** and **Mon Nov 12**
- **5%** - Term paper draft submitted on Canvas by **10 AM Fri Nov 30** + two peer reviews submitted on Canvas by **10 AM Sat Dec 1** (CR/NC; late=NC)
- **35%** - 5-7 page term paper submitted on Canvas **by 11 PM Fri, Dec 7.**
- **20%** - Take-home final exam submitted on Canvas by **3 PM, Wed, Dec 12.**

Writing Experience (WE) GE: The analytical essays and term paper will receive feedback from the instructor and/or classmates and are intended to build skills throughout the quarter.

You must complete the two analytical essays, the term paper, and the final exam in order to pass the class. In the case of a borderline grade, **class participation** will be given serious consideration.

Important note on plagiarism/cheating (see also "Avoiding Plagiarism" document below)**:**
It is a violation of the Code of Academic Conduct to turn in work that is not your own. This includes: turning in the work of another student with your name on it, buying/copying a paper off the Internet, using the words *or* ideas of others without proper quotation and citation. In accordance with Regulation 550 of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate, **a grade of "0" will be assigned to examinations or assignments on which cheating, plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty is admitted or determined to have occurred by proper adjudication.** If you have trouble with the class material or have personal issues preventing you from doing your work, come talk to me. **University requirement:** Verify your participation.

Tentative Reading Schedule - All dates and readings are subject to change. All readings will be available on the course website on Canvas, https://canvas.ucdavis.edu/

Date	Topic	Reading (by author)
Sep 27	Introduction	Syllabus
Oct 2	Anthropocentric ethics	**Phil:** Hinman (excerpt), **Case:** Olster
Oct 4	Anthropocentric ethics	**Phil:** Dillon (excerpt), **Case:** Peppard
Oct 9	Individualism: Animals	**Phil:** Singer, **Case:** Case 3
Oct 11	Individualism: Animals	**Phil:** Regan, **Case:** Case 19
Oct 16	Individualism: Animals	**Phil:** Warren, **Case:** Case 2
Oct 18	Individualism: All life	**Phil:** Taylor, **Case:** Jackson
Oct 23	Individualism: All life	**Phil:** Varner, **Case:** FresnoBee
Oct 25	Species/biodiversity	**Phil:** Russow, **Case**: Science Daily
Oct 30	Species/biodiversity	**Phil:** Bradley, **Case:** Science Daily
Nov 1	Video: *Green Fire*	*no reading, but post to Canvas w/in 24 hrs after movie*
Nov 6	Ecocentrism	**Phil:** Leopold, **Case:** Case 23
Nov 8	Ecocentrism	**Phil:** Westra, **Case:** Perlman
Nov 13	Ecocentrism	**Phil:** Hettinger & Throop, **Case:** Case 5
Nov 15	Ecocentrism v. Individualism	**Phil:** Sagoff, **Case:** Case 25
Nov 20	Ecocentrism v. Individualism	**Phil:** Shrader-Frechette, **Case:** Case 16
Nov 22	Thanksgiving - NO CLASS	*no reading*
Nov 27	All encompassing: Deep Ecology	**Phil:** Devall & Sessions, **Case:** Case 10
Nov 29	All encompassing: 3rd World Critique	**Phil:** Guha, **Case:** Case 4
Dec 4	Anthropocentric ethics revisited	**Phil:** Norton, **Case:** ENS
Dec 6	Anthropocentric ethics revisited	**Phil:** McShane

Avoiding PLAGIARISM

Mastering the Art of Scholarship

In writing, we draw upon others' words and ideas and the intellectual heritage underlying human progress. Scholarship entails researching, understanding, and building upon the work of others, but also requires that proper credit be given for any "borrowed" material. Under our *Code of Academic Conduct*, UC Davis students are responsible for ethical scholarship, and for knowing what plagiarism is and how to avoid it.

What is plagiarism?

"**Plagiarism**" means using another's work without giving credit. If you use others' words, you must put them in quotation marks and cite your source. You must also include citations when using others' ideas, even if you have paraphrased those ideas in your own words.

"Work" includes the words and ideas of others, as well as art, graphics, computer programs, music, and other creative expression. The work may consist of writing, charts, data, graphs, pictures, diagrams, websites, movies, TV broadcasts, or other communication media.

The term **"source"** includes published works -- books, magazines, newspapers, textbooks, websites, movies, photos, paintings, plays -- and unpublished sources (e.g., materials from a research service, blogs, class handouts, lectures, or notes, speeches, other students' papers). **Using words, ideas, computer code, or any work without giving proper credit is plagiarism. Any time you use information from a source, of any kind, you must cite it.**

Why be concerned about plagiarism?

- **If you plagiarize, you are cheating yourself**. You don't learn to write out your thoughts in your own words, and you won't receive specific feedback from your instructor geared to your individual needs and skills.
- **Plagiarism is dishonest and/or misleading**, because it misrepresents the work of another as your own.
- **Plagiarism violates the *Code of Academic Conduct*** and can lead to Suspension or Dismissal.
- **Plagiarism devalues others' original work**. Using and submitting a professional's work as your own is taking an unfair advantage over students who do their own work.
- **It is wrong to take or use property** (an author's work) without giving the owner the value or credit due. Further, copyright violations can result in damages, fines, or worse.
- **The reputation of UC Davis affects the value of your degree;** student dishonesty hurts UCD's standing and can diminish the worth of your diploma.

How to Cite Sources:

In-Text Citations identify the source in the text, putting the author's last name and publication year in parenthesis and giving the page number where the cited information appears. The author's name links the reader to a list at the end of the paper giving full publishing information.

Footnotes and endnotes use raised numbers at the end of an idea or quoted words to link the reader to the source which is given either at the bottom of the page (footnote) or at the end of the paper (endnote).

For all three methods, you must include the source in a reference list at the end of the paper, fully identifying each source by author's name, title, publisher's name, year of publication, and page numbers. Citations to electronic resources such as websites should include the exact URL, the date last revised, and any available information about the writer, publisher, and/or creator of the site

 Resources on citation can be found from the UC Davis University Library at: http://guides.lib.ucdavis.edu/citations

Guidelines for Avoiding Plagiarism:

- When using sources, **take notes from the source material** and include the necessary information about the source that will later be used for your reference list and your citations.
- When **writing your paper drafts, include citations**. Attempting to add citations after you've written your paper will likely lead to missing or wrong citations to source material.
- **Use your own words and ideas.** Practice is essential to learning. Each time you choose your words, order your thoughts, and convey your ideas, you can improve your writing.
- **Give credit for copied, adapted, or paraphrased material.** If you copy and use another's exact words, you <u>must</u> use quotation marks <u>and</u> cite the source. If you adapt a chart or paraphrase a sentence, you must still cite your source. Paraphrasing is restating the author's ideas, information, and meaning in your own words.
- **Avoid using others work with minor "cosmetic" changes.** E.g. using "less" for "fewer," reversing the order of a sentence, or changing terms in a computer code. If the work is essentially the same as your source, give credit.
- **There are no "freebies."** <u>Always</u> cite words, information and ideas that you use if they are new to you (learned in your research). No matter where you find it – even if on the Internet or in a course reader – you must cite it!
- **Don't assume information is "common knowledge**." It is safer to cite than not.
- **Know what plagiarism is:** Unintentional plagiarism may result from not knowing how to cite sources properly or sloppy research and note-taking but it still violates the UC Davis *Code of Academic Conduct*.

Examples:

PARAPHRASE VS. PLAGIARISM

Original Source: *'[A totalitarian] society … can never permit either the truthful recording of facts, or the emotional sincerity, that literary creation demands. … Totalitarianism demands … the continuous alteration of the past, and in the long run … a disbelief in the very existence of objective truth.'* [3]

Student Version A – Plagiarism ⊘

A totalitarian society can never permit the truthful recording of facts; it demands the continuous alteration of the past, and a disbelief in the very existence of objective truth.

The student has combined copied pieces of the author's language, without quotation marks or citations.

Student Version B -- Improper paraphrase, also plagiarism ⊘

A totalitarian society can't be open-minded or allow the truthful recording of facts, but instead demands the constant changing of the past and a distrust of the very existence of objective truth (Orwell).

The student has woven together sentences and switched a few words ("open-minded" for "tolerant," "allow" for "permit") has left out some words, and has given an incomplete and inaccurate citation.

Student Version C -- Appropriate paraphrase, *not* plagiarism

Orwell believed that totalitarian societies must suppress literature and free expression because they cannot survive the truth, and thus they claim it does not exist (Bowker 336-337).

This student has paraphrased using her own words, accurately reflecting and citing the author's ideas.

Student Version D -- Quotation with cite, *not* plagiarism

In his biography of George Orwell, Gordon Bowker discusses the themes of <u>1984,</u> quoting a 1946 essay by Orwell: "'Totalitarianism demands … the continuous alteration of the past, and in the long run … a disbelief in the very existence of objective truth'" (337).

The student introduces the source. Verbatim words are in quotation marks, omitted words are marked by ellipses, and both the book used and the original source of the quote are cited.

[3]*Bowker p. 337, quoting Orwell, G., "The Prevention of Literature," Polemic, No. 2, January 1946*

Getting Help

Read the syllabus and assignment; ask your instructor how to cite sources; and carefully check class rules on citation format. Use resources such as the UC Davis Student Academic Success Center at 530-752-2013 http://sasc.ucdavis.edu or UC Davis Library Instruction Services http://www.lib.ucdavis.edu/dept/instruc. For questions contact Student Support and Judicial Affairs at 530-752-1128 or visit http://ossja.ucdavis.edu.