

EMMANUEL CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE

2018-2019 ACADEMIC YEAR

INSTRUCTOR: TBA

For additional information:

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Course Title	Credit	Semester	Date/Time	Hours
ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS	3		Spring, 2019	Wed/7-9 pm

Course Description:

Environmental ethics is the study of ethics in the context of the natural and spiritual world, on both individual and societal levels. Moral philosophy refers to the systematic endeavor to understand moral concepts and justify moral principles and theories. It undertakes to analyze such concepts as "right and wrong", "permissible" and "good and evil" within their own moral context. This course is a study of morality and ethics as compared to other normative subjects (e.g., religion, law, and etiquette). It is a study of the values and virtues that are paramount to life and society in hopes for a sustainable future.

Course Objectives:

This course is designed to: 1) provide the students with philosophical and ethical perspectives on current and controversial issues being considered in the field of environmental ethics; 2) provide rigorous and well-balanced approaches to the widely debated issues that constitute the field of environmental ethics today; and 3) enable students to think through complex environmental problems involving scientific, economic, political, and ethical aspects within a framework that gives due weight to the disciplinary approaches, yet also aims for integrated and rigorous understanding and entertains possible solutions.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to identify issues regarding environmental justice as it relates to race, class and gender. Students will gain an understanding of environmental ethics as it relates to the Jewish, Judeo-Christian, and Islamic traditions. Students will also be able to articulate the current understanding of climate change, global warming, sustainability, pesticides and pollution prevention, food and ecological ethics, and the affects of capitalism on each.

Assessment/Evaluation Methods

Students are required to submit two essays (5 pages each):

Essay 1: An Overview of Environmental Ethics

Compare and contrast the three essays presented in Chapter 1 (Palmer, Hill, Shue). After studying each one, choose the essay that best aligns with your own thinking regarding environmental ethics and explain why.

Essay 2: What Every Environmentalist Needs to Know About Capitalism

In part II of our text, Magdoff and Foster discuss capitalism as it affects our planet, food supply, the poor, and the wealthy (pages 691-712). Dr. Jeremiah Wright is quoted as having asked "what about the people?" Discuss the areas where you agree and/or disagree with the authors. The full sources are listed in the notes section. You may read these as well to further support your arguments.

Final Examination

In addition to these two essays, assigned readings and discussions, a final exam will also be given. The final examination is a chance to sum up your study of environmental ethics and the global and ethical impact of current environmental policies and practices. A review sheet will be provided toward the end of the course.

Teaching/Learning Methods:

This course will be taught via lectures, videos, and open class discussions. Guest speakers will also be in attendance to make relevant presentations.

Grading/Other Policies and Expectations

Essays - 35%

Assigned Readings and Discussion Questions - 35%

Final Exam - 30%

Letter Grade Percentages

100%-90% = A

89%-80% = B

79%-70% = C

69%-60% = D

59% - Below = F

Policy for Class Attendance and Course Assignments

- 1) Course grades will be based on two graded essays, assigned readings/discussion questions, and a final examination.
- 2) All students are required to attend ECI's Annual Convocation and Worship Service.
- 3) Regular class attendance is required. No more than two unexcused absences are allowed. In case of an emergency, it is the responsibility of the student to obtain any missed assignments and/or pertinent information when absent.
- 4) Late assignments will only be accepted in extreme cases and will be docked one letter grade for each day it is late.
- 5) Please be on time for class. If you are tardy on exam day you may lose the opportunity to take your exam.

- 6) Leaving class early without pre arranging it with the instructor will count as a class absence.
- 7) All students are expected to act responsively and respectfully in class. The use of cell phones, texting, talking in class, and/or disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated.

Required Readings:

Pojman, Louis and Paul Pojman. Environmental Ethics, Readings in Theory and Application, 6th edition, 2012.