

Environmental Ethics

Philosophy 5700 W 18:00 – 20:50 hrs (ENV 225A)

Office hours: T&Th 17:00-18:00 hrs, and by appointment (ENV 320E) (rozzi@unt.edu)
Professor Ricardo Rozzi, Ph.D.

Objective

This Environmental Ethics course will be organized around the interrelations between ecological sciences and environmental ethics. In broader terms, we will explore interrelations between the ways of knowing and inhabiting the natural world. In particular, we will first explore the interrelations between ecological sciences and environmental ethics, between “facts and values,” between knowledge and action. Second, we will analyze multiple views of nature and of environmental ethics and conservation. Finally, we will focus in “ethno-ornithology” as a way to explore forms of living together among different cultures and species, articulating the diverse voices of birds and languages.

Texts

J. Baird Callicott. 1989. In Defense of the Land Ethic: Essays in Environmental Philosophy. SUNY (Series in Philosophy and Biology), State Univ of New York Press, NY.

Steven Feld. 1991. Sound and Sentiment: Birds, Weeping, Poetics, and Song in Kaluli Expression. University of Pennsylvania Press. ISBN: 0812212991

Robert Frodeman. 1999. Earth Matters: The Earth Sciences, Philosophy, and the Claims of Community. Prentice Hall,

Bruce Hull. 2006. Infinite Nature. University of Chicago Press ISBN: 0226359441

Bryan G. Norton. 1994. Toward Unity Among Environmentalists. Oxford University Press.

Requirements

1. 25% Weekly quiz and/or reading summary[#]
2. 10% Short presentation and discussion of articles in class*
3. 15% Mid-term exam
4. 15% Final exam
5. 35%: &i) Term Paper [15%], ii) book review [10%], and iii) dialogue-essay about Pasolini's Film [10%]

#For the assigned summaries, prepare a one or half page with a concise summary of the requested readings (single spaced, 12 pt font), and a one or half page with your criticism about these requested readings. All summaries are due on Tuesday, the day before the class.

***Each class will include one or two short presentations by students.** Based on the assigned reading, each student should prepare, individually or together with a classmate, an approximately 10 – 15 minutes presentation and propose two to three central ideas for a 10 minutes discussion in class. You have to prepare a concise power-point presentation that helps to illustrate the points you want to make, and allows the audience to get better familiarize with the subject. Each student has to make at least one presentation during the semester.

&The term paper topic should address one of the following main themes of the class:
i) the interrelations between ecological sciences and environmental ethics, between “facts and values,” between knowledge and action; ii) multiple views of nature, environmental ethics and conservation; iii) “ethno-ornithology.”

Paper (first draft) due **November 15**, 10-15 pages (double spaced, 12 pt font).

Book review due **September 20**, 5-10 pages (double spaced, 12 pt font).

Dialogue based on Pasolini’s film due **November 1**, 5-8 pages (double spaced, 12 pt font).

Tentative Schedule

August 30. Introduction to course topics, illustrated by the short essay *Thinking Like a Mountain* (Aldo Leopold, in *A Sand County Almanac*, pp.137-141, Ballantine Books, NY [1970 edition]), and by the case of *the three primatologists* (Jane Goodal, Dian Fossey, and Birute Galdikas; “Three Primatologists Who Became Activists” Box 19 in Primack, R. 2002. *Essentials of Conservation Biology*. Sinauer Associates, Inc.; 3rd edition]

September 6. Interrelations between environmental ethics and science I

Naess, Arne. 1973. The Shallow and the Deep, Long-Range Ecology Movements. *Inquiry* 16: 95-100.

Golley, Frank B. 1987 Deep Ecology from the Perspective of Environmental Science. *Environmental Ethics* 9: 45-55.

Rozzi, R. 1999. The reciprocal links between evolutionary-ecological sciences and environmental ethics. *BioScience* 49 (11): 911-921.

Rozzi, R., E. Hargrove, J.J. Armesto, S.T.A. Pickett & J. Silander. 1998. “Natural drift” as a post-modern metaphor. *Revista Chilena de Historia Natural* 71: 9-21.

Presentation on Deep Ecology by: [Will Grove](#)

Presentation on the interrelations between ecological-evolutionary sciences and environmental ethics by: [Nat Bell & Sarah Maxwell](#)

September 13. *Interrelations between environmental ethics and science II*

- J. Baird Callicott. 1989. In *Defense of the Land Ethic*. Chapter: 6 [= Callicott, JB. 1986. The metaphysical implications of ecology. *Environmental Ethics* 8: 301-316]
- J. Baird Callicott. 1989. In *Defense of the Land Ethic*. Chapter: 7 ["Hume's Is/Ought Dichotomy"]
- J. Baird Callicott. 1989. In *Defense of the Land Ethic*. Chapter: 8 ["On the Intrinsic Value of Nonhuman Species"]
- Lynn White. 1967. The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis. *Science* 155: 1203-1207.

Presentation on Lynn White by: [Chris Cone & Charlotte Tidrick](#)

September 20. Infinite nature

Review of the book "Infinite Nature" (Bruce Hull. 2006) due!

September 27. *Environmental ethics North American paradigmatic views: Toward Unity Among Environmentalists II*

Readings:

- Bryan G. Norton. 1994. *Toward Unity Among Environmentalists*: Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5.

Presentation on Norton's book by:

October 4. Toward Unity Among Environmentalists II

Readings:

- Bryan G. Norton. 1994. *Toward Unity Among Environmentalists*: Chapters 6, 8, 9.

Presentation on Norton's book by: [Jenny Myers & Heather Turner](#)

October 11. 15% Mid-term exam

October 18. *Environmental Ethics, Conservation & Policy*

Readings:

- Frodeman, R. 2006. The policy turn in environmental Ethics. *Environmental Ethics* 28: 3-20.
- Leopold C. 2004. Living with the Land Ethic. *BioScience* 54: 149-154)
- Rozzi, R. F. Massardo, C. Anderson, K. Heidinger & J. Silander Jr. 2006. Ten Principles for Biocultural Conservation at the Southern Tip of the Americas: The Approach of the Omora Ethnobotanical Park. *Ecology & Society* 11(1): 43. [online] URL: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol11/iss1/art43/>

Presentation on Frodeman's article by: [John Woodling](#)

Presentation on Leopold & Rozzi article by: [Chuck Siegel & Michele Cooley](#)

October 25 Diversity of worldviews.

Film: *The Hawks and the Sparrows (Uccellacci e uccellini)*, 1964, by Pier Paolo Pasolini (1922-1975)

November 1. *Environmental ethics multiple Western views*

Readings:

Merchant, C. 1997. Fish First!: The Changing Ethics of Ecosystem Management. *Human Ecology Review* 4: 25-30

Gare, Arran E. 1998. MacIntyre, Narratives, and Environmental Ethics. *Environmental Ethics* 20: 3-21.

Glasser, Harold. 1996. Naess's Deep Ecology Approach and Environmental Policy. *Inquiry* 39: 157-187.

Presentation on Gare's article by: [Toby Toole](#)

Presentation on Gare's article by: [Stacey Jennings](#)

November 8. *Environmental ethics and ethno-ornithology I*

Dialogue about Pasolini's Film due!

Steven Feld. Sound and Sentiment: Birds, Weeping, Poetics, and Song in Kaluli Expression. Chapters 1-4

Presentation by:

November 15. *Environmental ethics and ethno-ornithology II*

Term Paper (First Draft) Due

Steven Feld. Sound and Sentiment: Birds, Weeping, Poetics, and Song in Kaluli Expression. Chapters 5-6, and Poscript.

Presentation by:

November 29. *Environmental ethics and ethno-ornithology III*

Readings:

J. Baird Callicott. 1989. In Defense of the Land Ethic. Chapter 10 [Traditional American Indian and Western European Attitudes Toward nature: An Overview]

J. Baird Callicott. 1989. In Defense of the Land Ethic. Chapter 11 [American Indian Land Wisdom?]

Selections of:

Rozzi, R., F. Massardo, C. Anderson, S. McGehee, G. Clark, G. Egli, E. Ramilo, U. Calderón, C. Calderón, L. Aillapan, & C. Zárraga. 2003. *Multi-ethnic Bird Guide of the Austral Forests of South America*. Fantástico Sur-Univ. de Magallanes, Punta Arenas, Chile.

L. Aillapán & R. Rozzi. 2001. *Twenty Winged Poems from the native forests of southern Chile*. Book & two CDs of indigenous poems by the Mapuche shaman Lorenzo Aillapán, recorded in the in the forests of southern Chile in combination with bird vocalizations. Editorial Plaza y Valdés, Mexico

Presentation on Callicott's articles by:

Presentation on Rozzi's ethno-ornithology articles by:

December 6. Field approach to environmental ethics

Readings:

Robert Frodeman, ed. 1999. *Earth Matters*: Chapters 1,3,9,13.

1: Baker, Victor, *Conversing with the Earth*

3: Foltz, Bruce, *Inhabitation and Orientation: Science beyond disenchantment*

9, Oelschlaeger, Max, *Natural Aliens Reconsidered: Causes, Consequences, and Cures*.

13. Benammar, Karim, *Sacred Earth*.

Presentation on Chapters 1,3,13 by:

December 13. *Final Exam*.