

PHILOSOPHIES OF ENVIRONMENTALISM AND SUSTAINABILITY

Philosophy 22209, GNDR 22204, Environmental Studies 22209

Instructor: Bart Schultz; *Office:* Gates-Blake 126 (Fri. 12:30-2 pm, or by appointment)

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What does “going green” really mean? What is “sustainability” and how does it figure in the various forms of environmentalism? What are the most compelling forms of “environmentalism,” and what can they teach us about justice and how one ought to live? How do different fundamental ethical and political perspectives yield different approaches to and understandings of such terms as “sustainability,” “green,” “environmentalism,” “wilderness,” “conservation,” “stewardship,” and “sustainable development”? And what fundamental ethical and political perspectives inform such positions as ecofeminism, political ecology, deep ecology, gaia, and ecofascism? Does the environmental crisis confronting the world demand new forms of ethical and political philosophizing? This course uses a combination of classic environmentalist texts (e.g., Thoreau, Muir, Leopold, Carson) and contemporary works to clarify and address the most hotly contested and urgent philosophical issues animating and dividing the global environmental movement today. Various field trips, guest speakers, and special projects will help us philosophize about the fate of the earth by connecting the local and the global.

Required Texts:

1. J. Baird Callicott and Michael Nelson, eds., *The Great New Wilderness Debate* (University of Georgia Press, 1998)
2. John S. Dryzek, *The Politics of the Earth* (Oxford University Press, 2005)
3. Dale Jamieson, ed., *A Companion to Environmental Philosophy* (Blackwell Publishing, 2001)
4. Dale Jamieson, *Ethics and the Environment* (Cambridge University Press, 2008)
5. Bill McKibben, ed., *American Earth* (Library of American, 2008)

Note: All of these works are available at the Seminary Cooperative Bookstore. Additional required (and recommended) readings will be available on e-Reserve!

Course Requirements:

1. *Class participation, including initial “think piece”—10%*
2. *A five page (1000-1100 word) midterm essay—25%*

3. *A creative project analyzing and engaging the philosophical presuppositions of a local environmental organization or activity*
4. *A ten page (2000-2200 word) final essay or project—40%*

Note: This is in large part a discussion class, and you will be expected to participate regularly, in an informed and thoughtful manner. Please be prepared for some lively, critical discussions and debates! Also, please be sure to submit the assigned work on time—unexcused late work will be penalized!

Reading Schedule:

9/29—Introduction

10/1—The Great New Wilderness Debate, pp. 1-47; American Earth, pp. xvii-25

10/6—The Great New Wilderness Debate, pp. 48-74; American Earth, pp. 71-81, 84-112, 145-59, and 172-80

10/8—The Great New Wilderness Debate, pp. 75-84, 517-20; American Earth, pp. 265-94

10/13—The Great New Wilderness Debate, pp. 120-98, 471-510

10/15—Field Trip

10/20—Environmental Philosophy, pp. 1-65; Ethics and the Environment, pp. 102-80

10/22—Environmental Philosophy, pp. 67-101, 116-38, 194-207

10/27— Environmental Philosophy, pp. 155-93, 252-79; The Great New Wilderness Debate, pp. 280-91, 652-84

10/29— American Earth, pp. 359-76, 849-54, 718-36 971-74; Rachel Carson (on e-Reserve)

11/3— Environmental Philosophy, pp. 361-430; American Earth, pp. 939-74

11/5— Field Trip

11/10—Ethics and the Environment, pp. 181-205; The Politics of the Earth, pp. 1-25

11/12— The Politics of the Earth, pp. 25-142

11/17— The Politics of the Earth, pp. 143-202

11/19— The Politics of the Earth, pp. 203--36

11/24—Review

