Contact Information
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Blackboard:
https://elearning.uky.edu/

Office: 1429 Patterson Office Tower
Office Hours:
Mondays: 2:15pm – 4:45pm
Wednesdays: 2:15pm – 2:45pm
(or by appointment)

Required Texts
4. Articles and class handouts (available through Bb).

Course Description
What is our place in the nexus of life? Do we have an obligation toward living beings not of our own species? What essentially defines our connection both to our own kind and to other non-human living systems? How can we live and work in such a way as to sustain our living resources for ourselves and future generations. Indeed, what does sustainability mean? Are all values defined solely by reference to our own needs, or can we disclose a realm of value that extends beyond the human? If so, how far does the line of moral considerability extend? Does wild nature, itself, have value in and of itself? And if so, how far can we rightfully go to protect her? We will examine each of these questions in this class.

As we examine these issues, I will ask you to reflect on your own ecological conscience. During the semester (in addition to other class readings), you will read two books: Aldo Leopold's A Sand County Almanac and Vandana Shiva's Making Peace with the Earth. As you read these texts I you will keep a blog in which you address ethical concerns which are brought to light in these readings that you find most relevant to your particular situation both as students of this university and members of a local and a global community.

The graded elements in this class are four. Over the course of this semester, you will take two exams: (1) a midterm and (2) cumulative final. As noted above, you will write (3) a weekly blog (for eight weeks total, 4 weeks per book). Classes will be run predominately by question and answer, so (4) regular attendance and active class participation is essential to the success of the class.

Learning Outcomes
At the conclusion of this class, students will be able to:
• define the concepts central to environmental ethics
• explain and defend one's own ethical standpoint according to these ethical concepts
• explain the difference between anthropocentric and non-anthropocentric ethic theories
• discriminate and assess claims regarding moral considerability
• articulate and evaluate alternative ethical stances from traditionally underrepresented groups
understand and evaluate one's own concrete interaction to their surrounding world

**Grading**

**In-Class Exams**
- Midterm 20 %  (Date: October 14\textsuperscript{th})
- Cumulative Final 40 % – (Final Exam: Dec. 18th, 10:30am-12:30pm)

**Blog Assignment** 25%  (see handout for details - forthcoming)

**Active Participation** 15 %
- Student participation is essential to the success of the class. Students should come prepared to answer basic questions about the scheduled reading each class.
- Class participation is determined by:
  - clear and apparent preparation for each class by each student
  - the quality of classroom discussion to questions pose by the teacher
  - fruitful and respectful interaction with peers, visitors, and the professor during the entire semester.
  - Mere physical presence is not considered satisfactory participation. I'll be tracking in-class participation. If you have any questions about your participation at any point during the semester, don't hesitate to ask.

**Attendance**
- Regular attendance is required and a necessary condition to succeed in this class.
  - I'm very happy that you are in this class. Bear in mind though, that if you are enrolled in this class, you are required to attend every class meeting.
  - Think of this class as you would a paying job. (In fact, it's a job you are paying for.) Don't miss, except for legitimate and exceptional circumstances. Be on-time. Come prepared and, while there, apply yourself.
- If any student misses more than one week of classes without excuse (i.e., 4 or more unexcused absences), then he/she will receive a 50% deduction and automatically fail the class.
- No excused absence will count against the student. Any and all excuses must be provided, ideally, before the absence or, at minimum, within one week of return to class. Excuses submitted later than one week upon return to class may not be accepted.
- Students are responsible for keeping track of their own attendance in class. Although the professor will provide attendance reports at certain points during the semester, lack of knowledge either of this attendance rule or the student's own attendance status is no excuse.
- Tardiness, especially if repeated, may result in a 5% deduction of the total grade.

**Academic Integrity**

Cheating not only robs other students of a fair grade, it also fundamentally threatens the mission of this institution of higher education. Unfortunately, there is a high frequency of cheating and plagiarism at UK. By taking this class, you accept the injunction not to cheat and agree to have all or some of your assignments uploaded and checked by the SafeAssign anti-plagiarism tool or other anti-cheating tools. If the professor determines that a student or group of students has cheated on any exam or has plagiarized...
any part of any assignment, he/she/they will receive a grade of zero for the class. If the case is egregious, the issue will be directed to the appropriate University Dean and the student will receive a grade of XE/XF for the course.

Accommodations

If you have a documented disability which requires academic accommodations, please contact the professor as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide the recitation instructor with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center. If you have not already done so, please register with the Disability Resource Center (Room 2 Alumni Gym, 257-2754, jkarnes@uky.edu) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.