

FEB. 07 2003

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE  
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION**

**PH 3550  
Philosophy of the Environment  
3 (3-0-0) UT  
Winter 2003**

**Instructor: Ruth Michaels**  
**Office: C212**  
**Office hours: TBA**

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**Lecture/No pre-requisites**

**Calendar Description**

Major environmental issues, such as pollution, overpopulation, resource exhaustion, the rights of future generations and animal rights will be considered in regard to their ethical, aesthetic, or metaphysical ramifications.

**Content Description**

The course follows philosophical issues related to the environment in four general categories; ethical, political and two specific approaches to environmental philosophical issues - deep ecology and ecofeminism. The focus of the course is upon identifying key philosophical problems in this field and developing an understanding of the relationship between how these issues are framed and how they may be practically addressed. The term paper is a key element of the course. A wide scope of topics is provided and students are encouraged to develop and pursue environmental philosophical issues of personal interest.

**Texts**

- Zimmerman et. al, *Environmental Philosophy: From Animal Rights to Radical Ecology*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (required)
- Hacker, Diana, *A Canadian Pocket Style Manual* (required)

**Timeline**

- Week 1 - 4 : Political Ecology
- Week 5 - 9 : Environmental Ethics
- Week 10 - 12 : Deep Ecology
- Week 12 - 14 : Ecofeminism

**Evaluation**

- 2 short journal assignments.....5%
- 1 short paper.....10%
- 1 term paper.....25%
- 4 Take-Home Quizzes.....20%
- Midterm Examination.....20%
- Final, registrar scheduled, Examination.....20%

## **Evaluation Policies**

Extensions of assignment and paper deadlines will be considered *only* in the case of significant extenuating circumstances. If such circumstances arise students requesting an extension will be required to show evidence that a significant amount of work on the assignment has been completed in advance of the day *before* the work is due. For example, if a student requests an extension on the day before an assignment is due, a complete, or very nearly complete, draft of the paper must be shown to the instructor at the time of the request.

Students in circumstances of extreme duress should notify the instructor as soon as possible if they anticipate difficulty in submitting their work on time.

**Penalties** for assignments submitted for credit late without prior permission from the instructor are at the discretion of the instructor and may accrue at as much as **25% for each day late**.

Quizzes that are missed due to absence will *not* be rescheduled. Deferred writing of a scheduled Midterm Exam is at the discretion of the instructor. Absences from a registrar-scheduled Final Exam fall under GPRC Examination Policy. It is the responsibility of the student to be informed about these policies prior to the final examination period. A description of the policy is available in the GPRC Calendar and in the Student Handbook.

## **Absences**

Students should be aware that they are expected to meet their academic responsibility to attend classes. The instructor reserves the right to debar a student from writing the final exam when the student has accumulated more than 10% (2-3 classes) unexcused absences. Absences will be excused on the basis of verifiable illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency. If any student is unable to attend a particular class it is his/her responsibility to ascertain what has been missed. In addition, students should not make plans for travel, holidays, employment etc. which will interfere with their writing of exams during any scheduled examination time.

## **WebCT**

Students will have access to online threaded discussion of course materials. Topics for discussion will be suggested by the instructor but students are encouraged to initiate discussion based on individual interests. Discussion contents may be viewed by the instructor for the purpose of directing lecture materials and evaluating class needs for instruction on particular topics or concepts. Participation is optional and no marks are given for discussion entries. Materials directing students on how to use the WebCT resources will be distributed in class. Additional help is available at the Library Computer Labs.

## **Plagiarism and Cheating**

Students are encouraged to form study and discussion groups, however, assignments must be the independent work of the individual seeking credit for the assignments and students should be prepared to demonstrate that the work they turn in is their own. All forms of plagiarism and cheating are serious violations of academic integrity and will be dealt with as such. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with GPRC policy on plagiarism and cheating as outlined under *Student Responsibilities* and *Plagiarism and Cheating* in the Student Handbook.

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**Syllabus and Schedule of Assignments**

**Week 1 through 4 (6<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> Jan.)**

*Political Ecology*

- Journal Assignment #1 due 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. (out: 20<sup>th</sup> Jan.)
- Take-Home Quiz # 1 due 27<sup>th</sup> Jan.
- Journal Assignment #2 due 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. (out: 27<sup>th</sup> Jan.)

**Week 5 through 9 (3<sup>rd</sup> Feb - 12<sup>th</sup> Mar.)**

*Environmental Ethics*

- Short Paper due 5<sup>th</sup> Feb (out: 29<sup>th</sup> Jan.)
- Midterm Exam 19<sup>th</sup> Feb.
- Take-Home Quiz #2 due 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar.

**Week 10 to 12 (17<sup>th</sup> Mar - 31<sup>st</sup> Mar.)**

*Deep Ecology*

- Take-Home Quiz #3 due 17<sup>th</sup> Mar.
- Term Paper due 24<sup>th</sup> Mar. (Topics distributed Week #1)

**Week 12 through 14 (2<sup>nd</sup> Apr. - 16<sup>th</sup> Apr.)**

*Ecofeminism*

- Take-Home Quiz #4 due 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr.

**Final Examination is Registrar Scheduled**