

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

**PH 3550  
Philosophy of the Environment  
3 (3-0-0) UT  
Winter 2006**

**Instructor: Ruth Michaels  
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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**

Studying and proposing solutions to environmental problems requires the expertise of many disciplines including ecology, earth sciences, economic, political science, demography, ethics and others. It is for this reason that environmental *science* is an interdisciplinary field as should be *all* the related environmental disciplines. Environmental *philosophy*, being an *applied*, discipline, is primarily concerned with the application of philosophical endeavour to real-world problems. Environmental philosophy, is then about the application of philosophical endeavour to real-world environmental problems, and since these problems require an interdisciplinary approach, so does this course. The course has three main components. A science component that ensures that students fully comprehend the science behind the environmental problems they will be considering. A political component that instructs on the basis of Canada's political system, the structure and evolution of Canadian environmental policy nationally, transnationally and internationally and outlines Canada's Sustainable Development Strategies, as well as considers its national Ethics and Values. And an ethic component that looks specifically at the notion of sustainable development, a key notion in environmental policy with respect to resource management. All three components of the course are integrated by the general philosophical methodology of critical analysis—applying systematic general reasoning and problem solving skills to the overall issues and dilemmas that present themselves within the broad ranging context of environmental problems.

## Texts

- Dwivedi, O.P., Kyba, Patrick, Stoett, Patrick J., Tiessen, Rebecca, *Sustainable Development and Canada: National and International Perspectives*
  - Newton, Lisa H, *Ethics and Sustainability: Sustainable Development and the Moral Life*
  - Bennan, Scott, Withgott, Jay, *Essential Environment: The Science Behind the Stories*
  - Quitman Troyka, **Quick Access: Reference for Writers**, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition, (recommended)
- NOTE: A detailed Writing Handbook is **required** for this course. You may use any handbook that has met the requirement for a full year English course in lieu of the recommended text. Every student **must** have either the recommended writing handbook or one that meets this latter condition.

## Timeline

See detailed syllabus distributed on the first day of classes.

## Evaluation

- Journal Assignment (optional for students with prior philosophy courses) .....0%
- Midterm Exam.....20%
- 4 Reading Assignments .....20%
- 1 Short Paper ..... 10%
- Term Paper/ Project.....30%
- Final Exam.....20%

## Final Grading Schema

Final Score	Letter Grade	Point Value	Descriptor
98-100%	A+	4.0	Excellent
94-97%	A	4.0	
90-93%	A-	3.7	
85-89%	B+	3.3	Good
80-84%	B	3.0	
75-79%	B-	2.7	
70-74%	C+	2.3	Satisfactory
65-69%	C	2.0	
60-64%	C-	1.7	
55-59%	D+	1.3	Poor Minimal Pass
50-54%	D	1.0	
0-49%	F	0	Failure