NRM F303X, Environmental Ethics and Actions
Course Syllabus, Spring Semester 2023

Section 702 9:45-11:15 AM Tuesdays & Thursdays, Zoom Link
Section 701 2:00-3:30 PM Tuesdays & Thursdays, Zoom Link
Section 901 2:00-3:30 PM Tuesdays & Thursdays, Murie 107

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Zoom info: You will need to present your alaska.edu credentials in order to attend Zoom classes. Classes will be recorded and made available in Canvas for your review, if needed.

Office Hours: To stem the spread of COVID-19, I am only available to meet virtually (Zoom, telephone, etc.). Please use my contact information to schedule time with me.

Textbook: Bassham, Gregory. 2020. Environmental Ethics: The Central Issues. Hacket, Indianapolis/Cambridge. 231 p.

Additional readings will be posted on the course Canvas site.

NRM 303 is an upper division class. While you will be expected to learn some facts and ideas, the emphasis will be on exploring, thinking, and reflection based on assigned readings. These will be developed through class discussions in which active student participation is expected.

Email: I occasionally may need to contact you between class periods via email. If you prefer to use an email address other than your UA address, you will need to set up email forwarding.

Description: Exploration of the history of modern Western views of the relationship between people and nature, alternative foundations for an environmental ethic (utilitarianism, spiritual activity, rights-based and respect-based ethics) and practices of such ethics in business, profession and general lifestyle today.

Course goals: Through exploration of the breadth of environmental ethics as a discipline and its application to environmental issues, students will learn:

- to understand, identify, and be able to work with the three broad approaches to ethical analysis (ethics of consequence, principle, purpose)
- to analyze arguments for their strengths and weaknesses based on the quality of information and reasoning
- to explore the relationship between ethical theory and ethical action:
  as a basis for individual behavior, public policy and professional codes for environmental and resource managers.

- to identify and be able to describe the major principles, values, and assumptions underlying alternative positions on environmental issues and ethical approaches.
- to consider/develop/and present arguments for one's own view of environmental ethics and engage in ethical analysis of public and private issues.

Instructional Objectives as part of the UAF Core Curriculum

- to develop understanding of how individuals come to hold the values they proclaim
- to gain appreciation of the method by which these values influence practical activity of different peoples.
- to gain an understanding of the differences in value systems, both within the Western tradition and between it and non-Western cultures.
- to gain an understanding of the dilemmas of moral choice affecting individuals in complex societies.

Canvas: This course will make extensive use of Canvas (http://canvas.alaska.edu) for archiving class notes and reading materials, submitting assignments, taking quizzes, retrieving grades, and updating your course progress. Please check it regularly for announcements and updates, paying particular attention to the Assignments link as I update it week by week to help you keep track of readings and assignments.

Assignment submission: Unless specifically stated otherwise, all assignments should be turned in using Canvas's assignment submission feature. Please DO NOT use any other means of submission (e.g., e-mail). Late assignments will be penalized 10% of the assignment value per day, up to a maximum of 50%.

Grading: Letter grades will be assigned based on the fraction of total points obtained in the class: 90-100 = A, etc. Modifiers (+ or –) typically will be assigned for scores within 3 points of the letter grade cutoffs.

Course grade will be based on the following components:

Points	**Component**
100	Class participation (Attendance + Engagement)
100	Midterm Exam
100	Final Exam
~200	Quizzes & Homework
100	Term Paper
600	**Total**

Incomplete grades: We will follow the UAF Incomplete Grade Policy: "The letter "I" (Incomplete) is a temporary grade used to indicate that the student has satisfactorily completed (C or better) the majority of work in a course but for personal reasons beyond the student's

control, such as sickness, has not been able to complete the course during the regular semester. Negligence or indifference are not acceptable reasons for an "I" grade."

Class Participation accounts for ~1/6 of your grade, reflecting the importance I place on both your presence in class and your engagement with the topics. Absences occasionally are necessary, so you may miss up to two class sessions without penalty. Each additional absence, for whatever reason, will incur a ~4 point penalty from your attendance grade. Please sign in for every class you attend.

Class sessions are primarily an opportunity to discuss the assigned readings in a thoughtful, informed manner. It is only through such dialogue that ideas can be fruitfully explored. The terms "informed" and "thoughtful" are emphasized. To this end, it will be imperative that students read and, equally important, ponder the assigned reading material prior to each class. To guide (coerce) you to do this, I will employ two strategies. First, I will at times randomly call on students to offer their thoughts on or analysis of the assigned readings. Beginning in about the 3rd week, I will ask students to introduce and summarize each of the readings for class in order to get discussion going. Together with your general engagement in class discussions, these will comprise the engagement quality of your class participation grade.

Example: If you miss four classes and I evaluate the quality of your engagement in class as a mid "B", your class participation grade would be (100 – 8) * 85% = 78/100 points.

I reserve the right to exercise judgment in final grading in light of individual student circumstances and notable changes in progress and performance. Students will be penalized for late assignments and missed exams. Students dissatisfied with their progress or performance should initiate contact with me.

Ethical Expectations: Plagiarism and other serious violations of the UAF honor code will earn a failing grade for the course. Please go to Assignments for week 1 in Canvas, read the "Ethical Expectations" document, and then complete the survey indicated.

Syllabus Addendum

COVID-19 statement: Students should keep up-to-date on the university's policies, practices, and mandates related to COVID-19 by regularly checking this website: https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/uaf?authuser=0
Further, students are expected to adhere to the university's policies, practices, and mandates and are subject to disciplinary actions if they do not comply.

Student protections statement: UAF embraces and grows a culture of respect, diversity, inclusion, and caring. Students at this university are protected against sexual harassment and discrimination (Title IX). Faculty members are designated as responsible employees which means they are required to report sexual misconduct. Graduate teaching assistants do not share the same reporting obligations. For more information on your rights as a student and the

resources available to you to resolve problems, please go to the following site: https://catalog.uaf.edu/academics-regulations/students-rights-responsibilities/.

Disability services statement: I will work with the Office of Disability Services to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities.

Student Academic Support:

- Speaking Center (907-474-5470, uaf-speakingcenter@alaska.edu, Gruening 507)
- Writing Center (907-474-5314, uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu, Gruening 8th floor)
- UAF Math Services, uafmathstatlab@gmail.com, Chapman Building (for math fee paying students only)
- Developmental Math Lab, Gruening 406
- The Debbie Moses Learning Center at CTC (907-455-2860, 604 Barnette St, Room 120, https://www.ctc.uaf.edu/student-services/student-success-center/)
- For more information and resources, please see the Academic Advising Resource List (https://www.uaf.edu/advising/lr/SKM_364e19011717281.pdf)

Student Resources:

- Disability Services (907-474-5655, uaf-disability-services@alaska.edu, Whitaker 208)
- Student Health & Counseling **[6 free counseling sessions]** (907-474-7043, https://www.uaf.edu/chc/appointments.php, Whitaker 203)
- Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities (907-474-7317, uaf-studentrights@alaska.edu, Eielson 110)
- Associated Students of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (ASUAF) or ASUAF Student Government (907-474-7355, asuaf.office@alaska.edu, Wood Center 119)

Nondiscrimination statement: The University of Alaska is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educational institution. The University of Alaska does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, physical or mental disability, status as a protected veteran, marital status, changes in marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, parenthood, sexual orientation, gender identity, political affiliation or belief, genetic information, or other legally protected status. The University's commitment to nondiscrimination, including against sex discrimination, applies to students, employees, and applicants for admission and employment. Contact information, applicable laws, and complaint procedures are included on UA's statement of nondiscrimination available at www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination. For more information, contact:
UAF Department of Equity and Compliance
1692 Tok Lane, 3rd floor, Constitution Hall, Fairbanks, AK 99775
907-474-7300
uaf-deo@alaska.edu

NRM 303 Topic Schedule 2023	
Week	**Topic**
1	Introduction / Scope /Mechanics
1/17-1/19	What is Ethics? What are yours?
2	Relativism / Science & Ethics
1/24-1/26	Moral Reasoning & Dialogue
3	Ethics & Clear Thinking
1/31-2/2	Fallacies
4	Human Nature and Moral Psychology
2/7-2/9	Ethics: Origins & Perspectives
5	Ethics, Humans, & Values
2/14-2/16	Cultural & Religious Traditions: Spirit & Nature.
6	
2/21-2/23	Expanding the Circle: Moral Standing, Moral Agents
7	The Moral Status of Animals, STNG
2/28-3/2	
8	REVIEW
3/7-3/9	MID-TERM EXAM
3/14-3/16	SPRING BREAK
9	Biocentric ethics
3/21-3/23	Anthropocentric and non-anthropocentric ethics
10	Ecocentrism, land ethic
3/28-3/30	Contemporary Movements: Deep Ecology, Ecofeminism
11	Moderate ecocentrism
4/4-4/6	Population & Consumption: Ecological Footprints
12	Sustainability, Duties to Future Generations
4/11-4/13	Ethics and Economics
13	Food Ethics
4/18-4/20	Wilderness preservation
14	Extinction crisis
4/25-4/27	Ethics of Climate Change, disobedience, wrapup