

**The University of Western Ontario
Department of Philosophy**

**Philosophy 2033A:
ENVIRONMENTAL PHILOSOPHY**

**Instructor: Alain Ducharme
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M, W, F, 12:30-1:30, TC 141**

DESCRIPTION

There has never been a better time than now to reflect critically on the environment and our relation to it. In this course, we will explore recent and influential philosophical thought on issues pertaining to the environment. We will reflect on important and pertinent questions such as: What, if any, is the role that humans play in climate change? Are we morally obligated to change the way we live to better sustain the environment? What is the moral status of non-human animals? What is 'the environment'? What is the nature of nature? Is there value in nature? How do our metaphysical views influence or shape our ethical attitudes towards the environment?

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to the subject matter and to foster the development of critical thinking skills and philosophical method through engagement with current issues in environmental philosophy. By doing so students will become familiar with seminal works in the field.

TEXTS

Required:

- Lori Gruen and Dale Jamieson: *Reflecting on Nature: Readings in Environmental Philosophy*. Oxford University Press.

Optional:

- Lewis Vaughn and Jillian Scott McIntosh: *Writing Philosophy: A Guide for Canadian Students*, Oxford University Press

Other Readings will be made available on WebCT.

REQUIREMENTS

The main mode of teaching will be lectures reflecting material covered in the readings and geared toward the engagement with the key issues. Course requirements include attendance to all lectures and an attentive presence in the classroom, an assignment dealing with local environmental issues, a 5-6 page term paper, a midterm exam, and a cumulative final exam.

Participation	10%
Assignment	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Term Paper	25%
Final exam	30%

A schedule of the required readings and the due dates for the assignments will be available on WebCT by the first class. Students are required to submit their papers to turnitin.com (via WebCT).

AUDIT

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/proceduresappeals.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.