

VALUES AND THE ENVIRONMENT, aka, ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS: PHI 236

Professor: Dr. Larry J. Waggle

Section: 11:00 MWF: 209 TUR

Office: 156 D Turner Hall

Office Phone # (309) 438-2466

Office Hours: by appointment only

Email Address: Ljwaggl@ilstu.edu

Main Philosophy Office: 150 Turner Hall (309) 438-7665

Catalog description: Philosophical examination of selected moral and social issues involving humans, nonhumans, and the environment, e.g., animal rights, resource distribution, environmental racism.

This is a short version of my syllabus. Some of the policies set forth herein are more fully elaborated on my website. The version of these policies that will be enforced throughout the semester are to be found there. During the first week of the semester, you should read the extended versions of these policies. My website is www.philosophy.ilstu.edu/ljwaggl/ All university policies will be enforced. The following additional policies apply in my classes.

- Attendance You are expected to be in class, prepared to work, every scheduled class period. Excessive absences will dramatically affect your performance in this class. Should you want an absence excused, I will need written documentation from your program (a letter informing me what the activity is and the dates and times you will be unable to attend class) or a letter from the Office of Student Affairs. Should you use the Office of Student Affairs, please follow their policies. ***I will not orally waive attendance.***
- Homework You are expected to have all of the assigned readings done prior to the class period in which we discuss them. Do not fall behind in your readings. You will not be able to take full advantage of the lectures or the discussions if you are not prepared. This includes checking the class website for changes to the schedule, additional materials you are expected to utilize, as well as any and all online quizzes.
- Student Learning You are to set aside at least two hours of out of class time for every hour you are in class per week. That means, you are expected to devote no fewer than 6 hours per week to this class.
- Class Participation You are expected to participate in class discussions. 100 points of your overall grade is based on class participation.
- Grading Policy I use a 10% gradation scale for evaluating all of your work. Your grade is based on the total number of *points* you have earned, not the letters assigned to the work. The online, secure grade book on my website is available 24 hours a day.

Office hours	Office hours are not replacement class periods. It is impossible to “reteach” extensive portions of this class. If we cannot find a mutual time for an appointment communicate with me via email. Some matters will require office visits and cannot be done by email. I cannot discuss grades by phone or via email. It is illegal.
Incompletes	A grade of incomplete may be granted only when justified by extreme circumstances where there is a reasonable expectation of completing the course.
Extra Credit	Should circumstances merit extra credit, you should be prepared to discuss the matter extensively with me in my office. Extra credit is <i>not</i> available any time after the last two weeks of class. I very rarely offer extra credit.
Late Work	Any assignment, without a written extension, not turned in by the expressed deadline on paper, will receive a zero.
Cellular Phones	Cellular phones, and other such devices, are to be turned off in the class room. Period. Please do not test my patience with this.
Professional Conduct	Success in this course depends on consistent attendance and active participation, both in and out of the class room. Students are expected to attend class regularly, since there is no practical way to make up for missed class discussions, group work, or in-class activities. <i>Coming to class unprepared seriously distracts from the group effort. Mere attendance in class is not enough.</i> Students are expected to prepare for class by completing the assignments prior to class. Active participation includes informed and constructive contributions to classroom discussions, positive contributions to collaborative learning projects, active listening, taking notes, etc. Some of the material and topics we will be discussing may be of a sensitive nature. You are expected to conduct yourself with maturity. Be respectful other’s views and others will be respectful of your’s.

You are expected to use standard English grammar and spelling on all written work for this class. If you need assistance with this, please consult University Center for Learning Assistance (UCLA) at Stevenson 133. If you have trouble understanding how to construct a coherent essay, then I expect that you will take the initiative to seek help.

The University policies on cheating on exams, plagiarism of written work or disruption of class will be enforced. The penalties range from censure to expulsion. Please familiarize yourself with these policies. They can be found on pages 7 and 8 of the Student Handbook. I take a dim view of these activities, and usually ask for the offender’s expulsion.

Your degree of success in this class depends on your willingness to explore these topics with an

open mind, being respectful of one another's views, and the intensity of work as reflected in your papers that you put into this class. I am committed to your learning and these policies are designed to create a positive learning environment.

Check, prior to class, www.philosophy.ilstu.edu for information concerning class cancellations.

If you have special needs, please either contact Student Services and/or discuss the matter with me, and bring your special needs documentation with you. Any arrangements for alternative testing must be pre-arranged through me and Student Services. ***No Exceptions.***

Grades: The work in this class will consist of several (3) short research papers related to topics discussed in class, one longer research paper to be turned in at the end of the term, 2 to 3 take home assignments, group discussion and participation. Some assignments may be posted on my website, e.g., the take home assignments. If you miss class for any reason and miss an assignment, check there first before asking me about this. Each of the shorter papers will be worth 100 points each. The longer paper will be worth either 150 to 200 points. There may be some short projecty sorts of assignments. These will be worth between 20 and 50 points. Participation/attendance is worth 100 points. I envision something in the neighborhood of 600 to 700 points for the semester. That seems like a good neighborhood to be in. I do reserve the right to change my mind as this course progresses. If so, I will post the new determination on line.

Group discussion and participation, likewise, cannot be made up if you are absent for any reason. These discussions are in class activities which require your presence in order to engage in them. If, for some reason, you are not able to attend a particular discussion day, then there frankly is nothing that can be done about this.

Expectations: You are expected to bring your text book and/or copies of the web materials to class on the day in which we discuss them. You are expected to explore these topics with an open mind and to listen to others (me included). If you are not convinced by something that I or someone else says, you are expected to demonstrate the error by using data and facts, not opinions. This is a learning experience. As such, we are all part of the learning. If you disagree with someone, be polite about it. If not, then others might not be so polite when they disagree with you. Remember, you are learning how to use philosophical reasoning in the domain of ethics. This is not a talk show.

You are expected to check the class website prior to each class. You are expected to check your university email. This is the means by which I will make you aware of upcoming events, dates, postings, etc. Should you decide not to check your e-mail, then the onus is on you. You are expected to try to understand the readings even if you do not get it the first time. Trying and not succeeding is as important as trying and succeeding.

Any and all email communications from and to you are made part of the official record of the class. Please take note of the formatting requests on my website concerning email. You should consider the use of email on par with that of regular mail for the purposes of communication in this class. I print and file all emails sent to me by students, and hence this is taken as part of the

official class record. Keep this in mind when you email me. I should further mention that I keep all of these communications for the purpose of having a complete record of the class. I cannot and will not use email for the purpose of communicating grades or other private information banned by law.

Remember, this is an environmental ethic course in the general education system. This course also counts for the environmental studies minor and as an elective in the philosophy major. The purpose of this course is to expose you to a number of contemporary issues in current philosophical and environmental ethical discussions. Exhaustive analysis and completeness is not our goal. We cannot do everything in four short months. I do not expect you to be philosophy majors or minors for that matter, but I do expect you to try. You do not have to be a philosopher or a philosopher in training to grapple with these issues, and, for that matter, using philosophical reasoning and/or exposure to philosophical reasoning is not such a terrible thing for non-philosophers, for even for those who absolutely hate philosophy.

I target the discussions and reading materials at the sophomore level because this is a two hundred level course. As with any discipline, there will be terms and concepts that you may not be aware of if you are not in philosophy. As with any discipline, you should assimilate those terms quickly. I am a professional philosopher by trade, and I will use philosophical language from time to time. It is unavoidable. Ask if you do not understand something. I cannot read your mind. If you need personalized assistance with something, please set an appointment with me to discuss the matter. We do have some tutoring available through the philosophy department. (309-438-7665).