PHIL 340 – Environmental Philosophy  
University of Oregon  
Spring, 2012

Instructor: Steven Brence  
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Office: 327 PLC  
Hours: 1:00-3:00, Wednesdays, or by appt.  
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Course Description:

As even more staid and conservative commentators increasingly warn of potential human-caused environmental catastrophe, perhaps more than ever we need to engage in serious and engaged reflection upon the place of humanity in the broader world. From climate change and the depletion of ‘resources,’ issues arising from our relation to the environment leave scarcely any broad human interest unqualified by the need for inquiry into that relation. This course will examine a range of recent efforts to inquire into the human in relation to the human and non-human environment, issuing from a variety of perspectives and theoretical traditions.

Required Texts: All Texts are available for download on the Blackboard page for the course. (https://blackboard.uoregon.edu/) (Check Course Schedule for specific readings.)

Course Requirements and Grades:

- Two Essays, 4-6 pages in length (60%)  
- Final Exam (20%)  
- Discussion Attendance and Participation (20%)

All written work, unless otherwise specified, must be submitted both electronically and in hard copy, the former also submitted to SafeAssign, a BlackBoard based electronic screener for incidents of plagiarism. You are encouraged to discuss all aspects of this course with your fellow students, but the work you turn in must be entirely your own. All materials quoted or referenced in producing your written work must be properly cited. Late essays will be marked down according to degree of lateness.

Technology policy: Use of electronic devices in a manner inconsistent with the purpose of your being in class is not permitted. Seriously, you are paying a lot for this course and I believe that there is much to be gained from your full attention and participation. Give Facebook, ESPN.com, text messages from your pals, etc. a rest during lectures and discussions. When writing email to your esteemed instructor, please fill in the topic heading, address the email (“Dr. Brence,” “Steven,” “Tough Guy,” whatever is fine really, so long as you acknowledge you’re addressing a fellow human being), use complete sentences, proper punctuation and spelling, and sign your message so that I know who you are.
Schedule

Specific assignments will be announced in class. This schedule subject to modification at any time.

Week 1 (Apr. 2 - Apr. 6)
Abram, “The Ecology of Magic”
Abram, “Philosophy on the Way to Ecology”

Week 2 (Apr. 9 - 13)
Excerpts from the film *The Cruise* (Miller, 1999)
Evernden, “Nature in Industrial Society”

Week 3 (Apr. 16 - 20)
Sessions, “Ecocentrism, Wilderness, and Global Ecosystem Protection”

**W (4/18): Essay #1 assigned in class**

Guha, “Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation”

Week 4 (Apr. 23 - Apr. 27)
Bookchin, “What is Social Ecology?”
Gaard and Gruen, "Ecofeminism: Toward Global Justice and Planetary Health"
Curtin, “Recognizing Women’s Environmental Expertise”

**F (4/27): Essay #1 due in class**

Week 5 (Apr. 30 - May 4)
Sturgeon, “Naturalizing Race: Indigenous Women and White Goddesses”
Mellor, “Ecofeminism and Environmental Ethics: A Materialist Perspective”

Week 6 (May 7 - 11)
Sale, “Dwellers in the Land”
Plant, “Revaluing Home: Feminism and Bioregionalism”
Dodge, “Living by Life: Some Bioregional Theory and Practice”
LaDuke, “Buffalo Nations, Buffalo Peoples”
Week 7 (May 14 - 18)

Film: *Koyaanisqatsi*

Jordan & Gilbert, “Think Local, Act Global: Discourses of Environment and Local Protest”

**W (5/16): Essay #2 assigned in class**

Corburn, “Street Science: Characterizing Local Knowledge”

Week 8 (May 21 - 25)

Heidegger, “Memorial Address”

Winner, “Luddism as Epistemology”

Borgmann, “Information and Reality at the Turn of the Century”

**F (5/25): Essay #2 due in class**

Week 9 (May 28 - Jun. 1)

M (5/28): Memorial Day

Watson, “Tora! Tora! Tora!”

Hill, “The Legacy of Luna”

Foreman, “Putting the Earth First,” “Strategic Monkeywrenching”

Week 10 (Jun. 4 - Jun. 8)

Martin, “Ecosabotage and Civil Disobedience”

Rawles, “The Missing Shade of Green”

Callicott, “Environmental Philosophy is Environmental Activism”

Finals Week

**Wednesday, Jun. 15 (3:15): Final Exam**