It goes without saying that we are living in a time of ecological crisis. And most, if not all of the problems that contribute to this crisis (habitat loss, extinction, pollution, climate change, etc.) are human-caused, yet we have so far done very little to meaningfully address these issues. One reason for this inaction is that there are many different, even contradictory ways to make sense of and respond to environmental crises. Environmental philosophy is the field of study in which we can think critically about the concepts that shape the way we think about the environment and our responsibility toward it. While we will be looking at writings on many different issues and from many different perspectives, we will continue to ask two fundamental questions: 1. What is "nature"? and 2. How are our environmental issues and our social issues intertwined? We will find that there are many different answers to both those questions, and that those answers will lead to different policies or "solutions" to the ecological crisis. No prior background in philosophy is required. This class is intended for anyone who would like to think critically about their own environmental practices, either in their individual lives or in an environmentally oriented profession.

Because this is a three-and-a-half week intensive course, the reading load will be very heavy, sometimes up to fifty pages per day. There will also be four papers (although most of them will be very short), and four quizzes. In order to do well in the class, you will need to complete the readings by the day they are assigned on the syllabus, attend all (or nearly all) class periods, and give yourself enough time to think through and write your papers. Please ensure that you have enough time during these three and a half weeks to dedicate yourself to the work for this class.

### Assigned Work (and grade breakdown)

- 2–3 page papers (10% each): 30%
- 5–7 page final research paper: 30%
- Quizzes (5% each): 20%
- Participation: 20%

### Papers and Quizzes

During the term, there will be three (2–3 pp) short papers, all of which will be due on a Monday. I will give you a list of topics to choose from, no later than the Wednesday before the due date, and all of which will relate to readings from that week.

There will also be four quizzes, which will usually be handed out on Fridays. They will cover that week’s worth of readings, and will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer questions. If you are on top of the reading and have good attendance, these quizzes will be very easy.

Your final paper is due on August 17th (and will replace the scheduled final exam), and will be a research paper that allows you to discuss topics that are of particular interest to you. You will be
asked to discuss a contemporary environmental problem in dialogue with any two authors from the course who would offer different perspectives or solutions to that problem. More information about this project will be provided in the third week of the class, and each of you will be required to meet with me during week three to discuss your ideas for a paper topic.

**Attendance and Participation**
You will be expected to participate *regularly, thoughtfully, and respectfully* in class discussion. I do not plan on lecturing for the entire two hours of each class, as philosophy is best learned by asking questions and by engaging in dialogue with others. Aside from encouraging you to participate, my in-class ground rules are: 1. be respectful of others, 2. *print out* the readings and bring them to class, and 3. NO ELECTRONICS! If I catch you with a cell phone, laptop, tablet, etc. you will be marked as "absent" from that class. The only exception to this rule is if you have a documented disability that requires you to have an electronic device.

Attendance is mandatory. I will allow two unexcused absences throughout the term; every absence thereafter will result in a 1/3 reduction of your final grade (e.g., A- to B+). I will excuse absences on a case-by-case basis, but will almost always require documentation confirming the reason for your absence (e.g., a doctor's note).

**Academic Dishonesty**
The Philosophy department abides by the University's policies for instances of academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, fabrication, and plagiarism. Anyone who is found to have committed such an act will receive an "F" for the course. If you have any questions about what might count as academic dishonesty, please check in with me as soon as possible.

**Disability**
If you have a documented disability that requires special accommodations, please see me as soon as possible.

**Schedule of Readings**
All readings will be posted on Blackboard; please print them out and bring them to class. Reading schedule is subject to change.

**Week 1: "Nature" and "Environment" in the History of Western Thought**
7/23 Introduction to the course
7/24 King James Bible, Book of Genesis, ch. 1–3
    - Thomas Aquinas, "Of the Mastership Belonging to Man in the State of Innocence"
    - René Descartes, *Discourse on the Method*, pp. 188–192
7/25 Henry David Thoreau, "Walking"
7/26 Aldo Leopold, "The Land Ethic"
7/27 *quiz #1*
    - Frederick Jackson Turner, "The Significance of the Frontier in American History"
7/26 Rachel Carson, "The Obligation to Endure"
7/27 E. O. Wilson, "On Silent Spring"
Week 2: Deep Ecology, Anthropocentrism, and Wilderness
7/30 short paper # 1 due
'Ecosophy T: Deep versus Shallow Ecology"
Neil Evernden, "Nature in Industrial Society"
7/31 David Abram, "The Ecology of Magic"
Michael Pollan, "The Human Bumblebee"
8/1 Val Plumwood, "Philosophy, Prudence, and Anthropocentrism"
Holmes Rolston III, "Saving Nature, Feeding People, and the Foundation of Ethics"
8/2 George Sessions, "Ecocentrism, Wilderness, and Global Ecosystem Protection."
Ramachandran Guha, "Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation"
8/3 quiz #2
William Cronon, "The Trouble with Wilderness"
Richard White, "Are You an Environmentalist or Do You Work for a Living?"

Week 3: Social Ecology, Environmental Justice, and Ecofeminism
8/6 short paper #2 due
Murray Bookchin, "What is Social Ecology?"
John Bellamy Foster, "Capitalism and Environmental Catastrophe"
8/7 Luke Cole & Sheila Foster, "In Defense of Mother Earth: The Indigenous Environmental Movement"
Winona LaDuke, "Buffalo Nations, Buffalo People"
8/8 Greta Gaard & Lori Gruen, "Ecofeminism: Toward Global Justice and Planetary Health"
Deane Curtin, "Recognizing Women's Environmental Expertise"
8/9 Carolyn Merchant, "Nature as Disorder: Women and Witches"
8/10 quiz #3
Noël Sturgeon, "Naturalizing Race: Indigenous Women and White Goddesses"
Timothy Morton, "Queer Ecology"

Week 4: Contemporary Environmental Issues
8/13 short paper #3 due
environmental activism
Paul Watson, "Tora! Tora! Tora!"
Julia Butterfly Hill, "The Legacy of Luna"
8/14 animal ethics
Peter Singer, "A Utilitarian Defense of Animal Liberation"
Temple Grandin, "Thinking Like Animals," "A Major Change"
Animal Agricultural Alliance, "Animal Agriculture: Myths and Facts"
8/15 quiz # 4
climate change & global ethics
Dale Jamieson, "Ethics, Public Policy, and Global Warming"
Kathleen Deane Moore & Michael Nelson, "Toward a Global Consensus for Ethical Action"
8/16 No class
8/17 Final paper due (hard copy only) 4pm, Philosophy Department Office