

ENVS1003: Environmental Values and Ethics

Callaghan and Ourimbah
Semester 2 - 2023



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

OVERVIEW

Course Description

The course introduces students to the ideological causes of environmental destruction (despotism) and responses to them in the form of late twentieth century environmental philosophies such as: Native Ecology, Animal Liberation, The Land Ethic, Deep Ecology, Ecofeminism and Social Ecology. The examination of 'environmental' values and ethics is linked to a critical evaluation of contemporary social values and the idea of an ecologically sustainable society. The application of contemporary ethics to professional practice, experimentation and social action is critically considered.

Requisites

This course replaces ENVS1020. If you have successfully completed ENVS1020 you cannot enrol in this course.

Contact Hours

Lecture

Face to Face On Campus
1 hour(s) per Week for Full Term

Tutorial

Face to Face On Campus
1 hour(s) per Week for Full Term

Unit Weighting Workload

10
Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

COURSE OUTLINE

www.newcastle.edu.au

CRICOS Provider 00109J

CONTACTS

Course Coordinator	Callaghan Prof Simon Springer Simon.Springer@newcastle.edu.au (02) 4921 2075
Teaching Staff	Elizabeth Murphy-May - elizabeth.murphymay@newcastle.edu.au Jessica Lemire - jessica.lemire@newcastle.edu.au
School Office	School of Environmental and Life Sciences Room C228 Chemistry Building Callaghan Science-SELS@newcastle.edu.au +61 2 4921 5080 9am-5pm (Mon-Fri)

SYLLABUS

Course Content	<p>This course covers material relevant to environmental ethics. Topics include: The origins of despotic attitudes toward the environment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Religions– Patriarchy– Science and Technology– Economic Growth and Progress <p>Responses to the above in the form of environmental philosophies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Native Ecology– Animal Liberation– The Land Ethic and Gaia– Deep Ecology– Ecofeminism– Social Ecology– An Environmental Ethic for the 21st Century
Course Learning Outcomes	<p>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify the historical origins of destructive attitudes and practices toward the natural environment;2. Articulate the historical development of environmental philosophy in the twentieth and twenty first century;3. Describe the role of environmental philosophy in evaluating attitudes toward the environment;4. Discuss the compatibility of human and environmental/ecological values;5. Identify the importance of environmental philosophy within the management and design of social systems;6. Explain the relevance of environmental ethics and values within the field of science.

Course Materials**Lecture Materials:**

- Available on Course Canvas Site

Multi-Media Resource:

- UON Capture recording of lecture available on Course Canvas Site

Other Resources:

- Available on the Course Canvas Site

Recommended Reading:

- Course Reserves (Short Loans) Online - ENVS 1003

Recommended Text:

- Keller, D.R. (ed) 2010 *Environmental Ethics - the big questions*, Wiley Blackwell, Oxford.
[Available in Coop Bookshop].

Required Reading:

- Course Reserves (Short Loans) Online - ENVS1003

SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Learning Activity	Assessment Due
1	17 Jul	Introduction – What is Environmental Ethics?	Lecture Tutorial	
2	24 Jul	Religion & Patriarchy	Lecture Tutorial	
3	31 Jul	Science & Technology	Lecture Tutorial	
4	7 Aug	Economic Growth and Progress	Lecture Tutorial	
5	14 Aug	Colonialism	Lecture Tutorial	Precis - Due Sunday 20th August 11:59pm
6	21 Aug	Native Ecologies	Lecture Tutorial	
7	28 Aug	Animal Liberation	Lecture Tutorial	
8	4 Sep	Deep Ecology / EcoFeminism	Lecture Tutorial	
9	11 Sep	No Lectures / No Tutorials	Online Quiz (weeks 6-8)	Online Quiz - Due Sunday 17th September 11:59pm
10	18 Sep	Social Ecology & Eco-Socialism	Lecture Tutorial	
Mid Term Break				
Mid Term Break				
11	9 Oct	The Land Ethic and Gaia	Lecture Tutorial	
12	16 Oct	An Environmental Ethic for the 21st Century	Lecture Tutorial	Reflective Journal - Due Sunday 22nd October 11:59pm
13	23 Oct	Revision	Course Review	Take Home Exam - Due Friday 27th October 11:59pm
Examination Period				
Examination Period				

ASSESSMENTS

This course has 4 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Precis	Sunday 20th August 11:59pm	Individual	20%	1, 2, 3, 4
2	Take Home Exam	Friday 27th October 11:59pm	Individual	40%	1, 5, 6
3	Online Quiz	Sunday 17th September 11:59pm	Individual	25%	2, 6
4	Reflective Journal	Sunday 22nd October 11:59pm	Individual	15%	2, 3, 4

Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

Assessment 1 - Precis

Assessment Type	Written Assignment
Description	This assignment is designed to help develop your summary and written communication skills. Using one of several selected readings (available on Canvas), you are required to provide a 1200-word précis which summarises what the reading was about, how key arguments/points were supported with evidence by the author and what aspects of the reading can be used to inform how we think and apply ethics in different contexts today. (More details on Canvas).
Weighting	20%
Due Date	Sunday 20th August 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online Via the Course Canvas Site
Assessment Criteria	Available on the Course Canvas Site
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online

Assessment 2 - Take Home Exam

Assessment Type	In Term Test
Purpose	Take Home Exam
Description	The final examination is designed to test the individual student's knowledge of the course material and their ability to describe, analyse and hypothesise from this material. Marks are awarded in accordance with Table 1 from the Grading Scheme opposite.
Weighting	40%
Due Date	Friday 27th October 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Essay structured responses to questions.
Return Method	Not Returned
Feedback Provided	No Feedback

Assessment 3 - Online Quiz

Assessment Type	Quiz
Description	The online quiz will be based on material presented and discussed in the lectures, the tutorial program and topic readings from Weeks 6-8 (Environmental Philosophies). The quiz will be multiple choice.
Weighting	25%
Due Date	Sunday 17th September 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online Completed Online through Course Canvas Site
Assessment Criteria	Available on the Course Canvas Site
Return Method	Online
Feedback Provided	Online - To the class as a whole on the Course Canvas Site

Assessment 4 - Reflective Journal

Assessment Type	Journal
Description	For most people this will be a course that challenges the values and ethical positions that underpin how one thinks about and engages with the world. Given this critical emphasis, the reflective journal will provide students with a means to document their reflections on how, and in what ways, the core themes, tutorial program, readings etc. have challenged and/or consolidated thinking around the environment. (Specific details will be supplied on the Course Canvas site).
Weighting	15%
Length	1200 words
Due Date	Sunday 22nd October 11:59pm
Submission Method	Online
Assessment Criteria	Turnitin on the Course Canvas Site
Return Method	Available on the Course Canvas Site
Feedback Provided	Online

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grading Scheme

This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

Attendance

*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

Attendance/participation will be recorded in the following components:

- Tutorial (Method of recording: Attendance App)

There is a compulsory attendance requirement in this course. Students must attend 80% of the tutorial classes.

Communication Methods

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.

Course Evaluation	Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.
Oral Interviews (Vivas)	As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the Oral Examination (viva) Procedure . In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the Student Conduct Rule .
Academic Misconduct	All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35 .
Adverse Circumstances	<p>The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;3. you are requesting a change of placement; or4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement. <p>Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at: https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236</p>
Important Policy Information	The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/no-room-for/policies-and-procedures that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.
Other Information	<p>Reasonable Adjustment Plans (RAP)</p> <p>If you are registered with AccessAbility and have been provided with a Reasonable Adjustment Plan (RAP), please ensure that you provide your Course Coordinator with a copy as soon as you can, or let your Course Coordinator know that you are still waiting for your RAP.</p>

This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.

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