

University of California, Davis
Department of Philosophy
ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS
PHI 220, Winter 2015
2275 SSH, Tues 3:10-6 PM

Contact information

Instructor: Professor Roberta Millstein

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Office Hours: Tues 2-3 PM, Thurs 12-1 PM, and by appointment

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Required readings

Required (and optional) readings available on course website on SmartSite, <https://smartsite.ucdavis.edu/>
J. Baird Callicott, *Thinking Like a Planet: The Land Ethic and the Earth Ethic*

Course description

This graduate seminar will explore some philosophical reactions to Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic. Leopold, a 20th century forester, wildlife manager, conservationist, and professor, has been extremely influential in environmental ethics. This is due in large part to the writings of J. Baird Callicott, who has been called the "leading philosophical exponent of Aldo Leopold's land ethic." Although in the first few weeks we will examine some of the reactions of other authors, the primary focus of the seminar will be on Callicott's recent book, where he not only elaborates on Leopold's Land Ethic but also develops and defends an Earth Ethic.

Course requirements

Your grade will be based on the following:

10% - In-class participation

10% - Online participation

20% - Coordination of seminars

60% - Term paper - Sketch due by 6 PM Sun, **Mar. 8**; final version due by 6 PM on Sun, **Mar. 22**.

In-class participation - You are expected to come to all classes having done the readings and you are expected to participate in class discussions.

Online participation - Post to the SmartSite Forums **by 1 PM before every seminar** concerning the readings for the day – ask questions, raise objections, give reflections, etc.

Coordination of seminars: You will coordinate at least one (perhaps more, depending on the number of students in the class) seminar using a visual aid such as handout or PowerPoint-type slides – contact me before class for help with photocopying or projector set up. Your job as coordinator is to stimulate and lead discussion. So, you should **1)** Give enough of a summary of the readings to stimulate discussion, but don't attempt a point-by-point summary (we can always turn to the article during discussion if necessary). Be sure to provide an overview of the overall argument. Seek out additional references if necessary. And, **2)** raise issues for discussion (not simply, "what did you think about that?"). As coordinator, it is OK if there are parts of the articles that you didn't understand; ask those questions for group discussion.

Term paper: Your paper may analyze any of the readings discussed in class, any of the optional readings, or offshoots of those readings (follow the citations of class readings or look for papers that cite the class readings). Contact me if you wish to do something other than the above. Prepare your paper (more or less) in the style of a *Philosophy of Science* article. Your paper should be approximately 5000 words (the length of a Philosophy of Science Association conference paper).

Important note on plagiarism/cheating: It is a violation of the Code of Academic Conduct to turn in work that is not your own. This includes: turning in the work of another student with your name on it, buying/copying a paper off the Internet, using the words *or* ideas of others without proper quotation and citation. In accordance with Regulation 550 of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate, **a grade of "0" will be assigned to assignments on which cheating, plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty is admitted or determined to have occurred by proper adjudication.** If you have trouble with the class material or have personal issues that prevent you from doing your work, come talk to me.

Tentative Schedule - All dates and readings are subject to change.

Date	Author-year	Paper/chapter title	Coor.
Jan 6	Leopold 1949	“Thinking Like a Mountain” (in <i>A Sand County Almanac</i>)	RLM
	Leopold 1949	“The Land Ethic” (in <i>A Sand County Almanac</i>)	RLM
Jan 13	Leopold 1944	“Conservation: In Whole or In Part”	
	Newton 2006	“A New Kind of Conservation”	
Jan 20	Callicott 1987	“The Conceptual Foundations of the Land Ethic”	
	Millstein ms.	“Re-examining the Darwinian Basis for Aldo Leopold’s Land Ethic”	
Jan 27	Shrader-Frechette 1996	“Individualism, Holism, and the Land Ethic”	
	Norton 2005	“Re-Modeling Nature as Valued”	
Feb 3	Callicott 2013	Introduction to <i>Thinking Like a Planet</i>	
		Ch 1: “A Sand County Almanac”	
Feb 10	Callicott 2013	Ch 2: “The Land Ethic: A Critical Account of Its Philosophical and Evolutionary Foundations”	
		Ch 3: “The Land Ethic (an Ought): A Critical Account of Its Ecological Foundations (an Is)”	
Feb 17	Callicott 2013	Ch 4: “The Land Ethic and the Science of Ethics: From the 17th through the 20th Centuries”	
		Ch 5: “The Land Ethic and the Science of Ethics: In the Light of Evolutionary Moral Psychology”	
Feb 24	Callicott 2013	Ch 6: “The Earth Ethic: A Critical Account of Its Philosophical Foundations”	
		Ch 7: “The Earth Ethic: A Critical Account of Its Scientific Metaphysical Foundations”	
Mar 3	Callicott 2013	Ch 8: “The Earth Ethic: A Critical Account of Its Biocentric Deontological Foundations”	
		Ch 9: “The Earth Ethic: A Critical Account of Its Anthropocentric Foundations: The Natural Contract and Environmental Virtue Ethics”	
Mar 10	Callicott 2013	Ch 10: “The Earth Ethic: A Critical Account of Its Anthropocentric Foundations—The limits of Rational Individualism”	
		Ch 11: “The Earth Ethic: A Critical Account of Its Anthropocentric Foundations—Responsibility to Future Generations and for Global Human Civilization”	