

Version 1.0 – 02.09.2019 – Before start of the semester

**Environmental Nexus ENV 200C
Ethical Thought and Moral Values**

Syllabus for EM Precept Section

to be read and used in conjunction with ENV 200 Lectures Syllabus

ENV 200C Instructor:

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Office hours by appointment: <http://wass.princeton.edu> (search Mintz-Woo)

Precept Section Goals:

This section is designed to enable you to develop an understanding of a wide range of ethical issues involved in the environmental challenges covered in the wider course. These include evaluating the scope of harms caused or risked by the Nexus; the sources of responsibility to address them; and what is involved in taking up an ethical stance on these issues. Its approach is grounded in the language and tradition of philosophy, ethics, and economics, and students will be inducted into the practices of reading and writing in these normative disciplines.

It is designed to be accessible to all students, including those concentrating in the social sciences, humanities, or arts, without prerequisites. Our goal is to enrich your intellectual life and help you develop the skills and tools to think and speak and write with clarity and insight about these issues, so as to become a more informed citizen or resident, both now and wherever you eventually live.

As a result of taking this course, you should be able to:

- understand the basic principles of ethical reasoning and a range of major ethical theories in the context of environmental ethics
- apply ethical theories to environmental issues
- assess and develop arguments about the source and nature of ethical harms and responsibilities in relation to the environment
- identify and assess ethical questions that arise in relation to other approaches to the environment, including economic, scientific, and literary analysis

Communication:

Office hours and contact information for all instructors will be posted on Blackboard under Contact. Important information will be shared by emails sent through Blackboard and/or by Blackboard Announcement, so you are responsible for checking your Princeton email account regularly and frequently.

Grading and Assignments:

The special requirements for this section are precept participation, and two papers:

Precept Participation: Dialogue is the lifeblood of ethical reasoning. So coming to precept prepared to engage is a must to get the most out of this course. In precept, there will be many chances to contribute responses to the readings and the instructor will take note of the quality and thoughtfulness of your contributions to precept discussion.

Attending precept is required. Points will be deducted for each precept missed, except at the discretion of the preceptor and only then if you have let him know by email in advance of a

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reason for which you must miss precept. If you are taken ill or suffer some other extraordinary cause preventing your attendance suddenly, please provide a note subsequently from McCosh or a college dean or similar authority, which will normally be required to avoid the penalty for absence.

Papers: Each paper should be 2000-2500 words long. Guidance will be given in precept on writing papers in ethics. This will draw on the following resources, which you are expected to consult and follow:

<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/reading.html> and
<http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html>

Important dates (subject to change):

Friday, Sep 21: Paper 1 topics distributed (choice of four questions or own topic; will also discuss rubric for marking)

Monday, Sep 30: Paper 1 draft DUE by 11:59 PM [Returned by October 3]

Wednesday, Oct 9: Paper 1 DUE by 11:59 PM

Oct TBD: Midterm [Possibly during Oct 21-25]

Friday, Nov 15: Paper 2 topics distributed (choice of four questions or own topic)

Monday, Nov 25: Paper 2 draft DUE by 11:59 PM [Returned by November 28]

Wednesday, Dec 4: Paper 2 DUE by 11:59 PM

Exam period: Exam [Date to be set by the Registrar]

Penalties for late submission: There will be a penalty of 1/3 of an overall grade for every 48-hour period or portion thereof that a paper is late, unless a valid reason is confirmed by a Dean or medical practitioner or other exceptional circumstances apply in the judgment of the professor.

Academic Integrity and Collaboration: Students are responsible for adhering to *Rights, Rules and Responsibilities* and the academic regulations that include (but not limited to) the avoidance of plagiarism and the use of proper source citation – some of which are summarized at the website *Academic Integrity at Princeton* <http://www.princeton.edu/pr/pub/integrity/pages/intro/index.htm>

Source citation should follow the style used in Gardiner's paper "A Perfect Moral Storm" (assigned reading November 4), in alphabetical order by author using hanging indents. Examples:

[Chapter in edited volume]

Shue, Henry. 2005. 'Responsibility of Future Generations and the Technological Transition'. In Walter Sinnott-Armstrong and Richard Howarth, eds, *Perspectives on Climate Change: Science, Economics, Politics, Ethics*. Elsevier: 265–84.

[Journal article]

Traxler, Martino. 2002. 'Fair Chore Division for Climate Change'. *Social Theory and Practice* 28(2): 101–34.

In this course, acceptable forms of collaboration include brainstorming ideas; sharing written work as a model for others to study; and asking someone else to hear you read your paper out loud, to get their general reactions to what is clear and unclear, where you could expand or shorten. It is not acceptable to do a line edit or rewrite of another person's paper; the words and ideas in the written work required by the course must be each student's own.

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Grade calculation: Final grades will be calculated as follows:

10% Precept participation

15% Paper 1

20% Paper 2

5% Iclicker lecture participation

20% Midterm (short answer essays) – centrally administered for ENV 200 on TBD (October?)

30% Final (short answer essays) – centrally administered for ENV 200; date from Registrar to be announced

Readings

The specific reading assignments for this section can be found in the schedule below. Please make sure you do all the reading for the section and bring it with you to your precept. Readings may occasionally be modified by Blackboard or email announcement in the course of the semester.

There are no required books for this section although there is a required Iclicker for the lectures.

You are responsible for your own access to all material set from the required books. Other readings listed below will be posted on Blackboard in E-Reserves, or, with notification, in Course Materials.

Again, remember that the readings listed below are for our precept sections only. You must also do any additional readings and view any films and other materials listed in the ENV 200 master syllabus for the lectures, and attend all the lectures, to complete the required work of ENV 200C as a whole.

Precept 1 (Week 2 – beg 9/16) Principles of Environmental Justice

- 1) Simon Caney, 2010, "Climate change and the duties of the advantaged," *Critical Rev. of Int. Soc. and Pol. Phil.* 13, (Read only pp. 203–17). Available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13698230903326331>
- 2) Richard Routley, 1973, "Is There a Need for a New, an Environmental Ethic?" in Bulgarian Organizing Committee (eds.) *Proceedings of the 15th World Congress of Philosophy* (Sophia: Sophia Press), pp. 205-10

Precept 2 (Week 3 – beg 9/23) Climate Change and Intergenerational Justice

- 1) Stephen Gardiner, 2004, "Ethics and Global Climate Change," *Ethics* 114 (Read only sections VI and VII, pp. 578–589). Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1086/382247>
- 2) Tim Mulgan, *Ethics for a Broken World* (Durham: Acumen, 2011), pp. 1–16.

Precept 3 (Week 4 – beg 9/30) Individual Actions

- 1) John Broome, 2013, "The Public and Private Morality of Climate Change" in Mark Matheson (ed.), *The Tanner Lectures on Human Values: Volume 32* (Utah: University of Utah Press), (Read only pp. 3–14). Available at: <http://muse.jhu.edu/book/41451> or <https://tannerlectures.utah.edu/Broome%20Lecture.pdf>
- 2) Elizabeth Cripps, 2016, "On Climate Matters: Offsetting, Population, and Justice," *Midwest Studies in Philosophy*, 40(1), (Read only pp. 114–119). Available at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/misp.12050/full>

Precept 4 (Week 5 – beg 10/7) Value of Nature

- 1) Dale Jamieson, 2008, "Values in Nature" in *Ethics and the Environment: An*

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Introduction. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), pp. 145-168. Available at:
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/ethics-and-the-environment/F0460CB49E38A26348E8D76FC05915A2>

- 2) Holmes Rolston III, 1975, “Is There an Ecological Ethic?” *Ethics*, 85(2), pp. 93–109. Available at: <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/291944>

Precept 5 (Week 6 – beg 10/14) Eating Meat

- 1) Donald Bruckner, 2015, “Strict Vegetarianism Is Immoral” in *Moral Complexities of Eating Meat*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press), ch. 3. Available at: <https://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199353903.001.0001/acprof-9780199353903>
- 2) (Optional) Lori Gruen and Robert C Jones, 2015, “Veganism as an Aspiration” in *Moral Complexities of Eating Meat*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press), ch. 9. Available at: <https://www.oxfordscholarship.com/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199353903.001.0001/acprof-9780199353903>
- We may also do a self-assessment this precept, so please come with some thoughts about the course and your performance so far

[Fall recess]

Precept 6 (Week 7 – beg 10/21) Climate Policy in the US

- 1) Kian Mintz-Woo, 2018, “Two Moral Arguments for a Global Social Cost of Carbon,” *Ethics, Policy & Environment*, 21(1), pp. 60–63. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21550085.2018.1448038>
- 2) John Nolt, 2011, “How Harmful Are the Average American's Greenhouse Gas Emissions?” *Ethics, Policy & Environment*, 14(1), pp. 3–10. Available at: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/21550085.2011.561584>

Precept 7 (Week 8 – beg 11/4) The Perfect Moral Storm

- Stephen Gardiner, 2006, “A perfect moral storm: climate change, intergenerational ethics and the problem of moral corruption,” *Environmental Values*, 15, pp. 397–413. Available at: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30302196> .
- Stephen Gardiner, 2001, “The Real Tragedy of the Commons,” *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 30(4), only sections V to IX, pp. 400–416. Available at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1088-4963.2001.00387.x> .

Precept 8 (Week 9 – beg 11/11) Non-Identity Problem

- 1) James Woodward, 1986 “The non-identity problem,” *Ethics*, 96(4), pp. (Read only 804–820). Available at: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2381100>
- 2) Parfit, D., 1986, “Comments,” *Ethics*, 96(4), only “Future Generations” pp. 854–862. Available at: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2381101>

Precept 9 (Week 10 – beg 11/18) – Expanding the moral community: Is there a need for a new environmental ethic?

- 1) Tom Regan, “The Nature and Possibility of an Environmental Ethic,” *Environmental Ethics* 3 (1981), pp. 19–34. Available at: https://www.pdnet.org/enviroethics/content/enviroethics_1981_0003_0001_0019_0034
- 2) Dale Jamieson, “Animal Liberation is an Environmental Ethic,” *Environmental Values* 7 (1998), pp. 41–57. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.3197/096327198129341465>

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Precept 10 (Week 11 – beg 11/25) – Utilitarianism in A Broken World

- 1) Tim Mulgan, *Ethics for a Broken World* (Durham: Acumen, 2011), pp. 122–146.

Precept 11 (Week 12 – beg 12/2) Distributive Justice

- 1) Henry Shue, 1993, “Subsistence Emissions and Luxury Emissions,” *Law & Policy*, 15(1), pp. 39–60. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1467-9930.1993.tb00093.x>