

**University of California, Davis**  
**Department of Philosophy**  
**PROBLEMS IN NORMATIVE ETHICS**  
**PHI 115, Fall 2011**  
**229 Wellman, TR 10:30-11:50 AM**

## Contact Information

**Instructor:** Professor Roberta Millstein

**Office:** 2287 Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), aka Death Star (corner of 3rd and A)

**Office Hours:** Tues 12:30-1:30 PM, Thurs 3:10-4:10 PM, and by appointment

**E-mail:** [RLMillstein@UCDavis.edu](mailto:RLMillstein@UCDavis.edu) (*the best way to reach me*)

**Phone:** 530-554-1398 (Skype voicemail)

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## Required Texts

*Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*, by Patrick G. Derr and Edward M. McNamara

Other required readings will be available on the course website on SmartSite, <https://smartsite.ucdavis.edu/>

## Course Description

Of the issues mentioned in the official course description for Phi 115, this class will focus on animal rights and environmental protection – in other words, *environmental ethics*. Many people are concerned about a variety of environmental issues, from pollution to global warming to the extinction of species. They say that we “should” do something about those issues. But what ethical assumptions underlie that “should”? Is it a concern for human well-being? For animals? For all life? For species? Or, even more broadly, for ecosystems? In other words, which things count morally? The answers matter not only because we need to justify our actions, but because different answers may imply different courses of action. In this class, we will explore the various answers that can and have been given to this question, and see how well these answers hold up when applied to contemporary environmental case studies.

The goals of this course are: 1) to introduce you to some of the major issues within environmental ethics; 2) to encourage you to critically examine your own beliefs as well as the beliefs of others; 3) to provide the opportunity to discuss, both in class and in a more sustained written form, your ideas and arguments concerning important issues in environmental ethics.

## Class Policies and Course Requirements

If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, or if you would need assistance in the event of an emergency evacuation, please contact me as soon as possible.

You are responsible for *all* material covered in class, including announcements, discussions, etc. – whether you are in class or not. **Take notes on discussions as well as lecture.** Since we will be discussing the readings in class, you should bring the reading for the day to each class.

Announcements are usually made at the beginning of class, so **please be on time**. Comings and goings are disruptive and distracting, so please keep them to a minimum. Cell phones are also distracting; please turn them off. Please do not bring guests (friends, children, etc.) without my permission. Eating in class is ok if it is done quietly and unobtrusively.

**Your grade will be based on the following** (all dates subject to change):

- 10%** - Comments/questions on each day's readings, **posted to Forums on SmartSite before class.** CR/NC
- 30%** - Two 2-page analytical essays submitted on SmartSite by **6 PM Mon: Oct 17 and Nov 7**
- 5%** - Term paper draft submitted on SmartSite by **6 PM Mon Nov 21** + two peer reviews submitted on SmartSite by **6 PM Wed Nov 23** (CR/NC; late=NC)
- 35%** - 5-7 page term paper submitted on SmartSite by **6 PM Thurs, Dec 1.**
- 20%** - Take-home final exam submitted on SmartSite by **10 AM, Tues, Dec 6.**

**You must complete the two analytical essays, the term paper, and the final exam in order to pass the class.** In the case of a borderline grade, **class participation** will be given serious consideration.

**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 examinations or 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 Reading Schedule** - All dates and readings are subject to change. **Web** readings will be available on the course website on SmartSite, <https://smartsite.ucdavis.edu/>; CSEE readings are in the book, *Case Studies in Environmental Ethics*.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading (by author)</b>
Sep 22	Introduction	Syllabus
Sep 27	Anthropocentric ethics	<b>Web:</b> Hinman (excerpt), CSEE: Case 27
Sep 29	Anthropocentric ethics	<b>Web:</b> Dillon (excerpt), CSEE: Case 35
Oct 4	Individualism: Animals	<b>Web:</b> Singer, CSEE: Case 3
Oct 6	Individualism: Animals	<b>Web:</b> Regan, CSEE: Case 19
Oct 11	Watch movie: "The Cove"	<i>No reading; post comments on movie to Smartsite</i>
Oct 13	Individualism: Animals	<b>Web:</b> Warren, CSEE: Case 2
Oct 18	Individualism: All life	<b>Web:</b> Taylor, Jackson
Oct 20	Individualism: All life	<b>Web:</b> Varner, FresnoBee
Oct 25	Species/biodiversity	<b>Web:</b> Meadows, Science Daily
Oct 27	Species/biodiversity	<b>Web:</b> Russow
Nov 1	Ecocentrism	<b>Web:</b> Leopold, CSEE: Case 23
Nov 3	Ecocentrism	<b>Web:</b> Hettinger & Throop, CSEE: Case 5
Nov 8	Ecocentrism	<b>Web:</b> Cahen
Nov 10	Ecocentrism	<b>Web:</b> Sagoff, CSEE: Case 25
Nov 15	All encompassing: Deep Ecology	<b>Web:</b> Devall & Sessions, CSEE: Case 10
Nov 17	All encompassing: Social Ecology	<b>Web:</b> Bookchin, CSEE: Case 1
Nov 22	All encompassing: Holism, again	<b>Web:</b> Marietta, CSEE: Case 16
Nov 24	Thanksgiving - NO CLASS	<i>no reading</i>
Nov 29	Anthropocentric ethics revisited	<b>Web:</b> Norton, ENS
Dec 1	Anthropocentric ethics revisited	<b>Web:</b> Westra