



ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2022
 REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: September 2026
 COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval): February 2029
 Course outline form version: 29/08/2024

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: PHIL 318	Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)										
Course Full Title: Environmental Ethics Course Short Title: Environmental Ethics											
Faculty: Faculty of Humanities	Department/School: Philosophy										
Calendar Description: Explores environmental ethical issues and investigates animal rights, climate change and the politicization of science, pollution caused by human activities, and obligations to future generations.											
Prerequisites (or NONE):	45 university-level credits including one of the following: 6 credits of PHIL, (GEOG 256 and 3 credits of ENV), or (3 credits of PHIL and 3 credits of ENV).										
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.										
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.										
Antirequisite Courses (<i>Cannot be taken for additional credit.</i>) Former course code/number: Cross-listed with: Equivalent course(s): <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>	Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Annually Maximum enrolment (for information only): 28										
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Lecture/seminar</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">45</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total hours</td> <td style="text-align: center;">45</td> </tr> </table>	Lecture/seminar	45							Total hours	45	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) PLAR is available for this course.
Lecture/seminar	45										
Total hours	45										
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: No	Transfer Credit (See bctransferguide.ca) Transfer credit already exists: Yes Submit outline for (re)articulation: Yes <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i>										
Department approval	Date of meeting: January 2026										
Faculty Council approval	Date of meeting: February 13, 2026										
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	Date of meeting: March 27, 2026										

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze environmental issues in the context of various cultural conceptual frameworks.
2. Use philosophical and theoretical frameworks for making moral and policy decisions.
3. Apply moral and axiological theories to environmental issues.
4. Examine various strategies for managing global and environmental issues as they are manifested locally in order to generate policy recommendations and recommendations for individual action.
5. Articulate environmental ethical problems from Indigenous perspectives.
6. Evaluate responses to environmental ethical problems from a variety of ethical perspectives.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Assignments:	100%	%	%
	%	%	%

Details:

Assignments may include:

- Two argumentative essays (30%)
- Reading reflections (15%)
- Outdoor journaling (10%)
- Options of class presentation, editorial assignment, video presentation, digital storytelling, or poster presentation (15%)
- Group project on a local environmental problem (30%)

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	Daniel Wildcat	Red Alert! Saving the Planet with Indigenous Knowledge	2009
2. Textbook	Byron Williston	Environmental Ethics for Canadians	2016
3. Textbook	Robin Kimmerer	Braiding Sweetgrass	2015
4. Textbook	S. Gardiner, S. Caney, D. Jamieson, and H. Shue	Climate Ethics: Essential Readings	2010
5. Textbook	O. Beran, L. Candiotta, N. Forsberg, A. Fredriksson, and D. Rozen	The Philosophy of Environmental Emotions: Grief, Hope, and Beyond	2024
6. Textbook	Vandana Shiva	Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability, and Peace	2015

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)***Course Content and Topics**

Unit 1: Examining Western and Indigenous ethical perspectives on the environment

- Defining moral standing
- Biocentrism and ecocentrism
- Relationships to land and place
- Grounded normativity
- Animal rights
- Ecofeminism

Unit 2: Identifying and exploring local and global problems

- Biodiversity and sustainability
- Climate change
- Economics and ecology
- Environmental activism

Unit 3: Creating and evaluating proposals to local environmental problems

- Topics to be determined by the class