

**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 Instructors:

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Office hours: Monday 2-3PM and by appointment (over email).

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 political theory, 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
- 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. While the grade for precept

participation will default to your average grade on the papers, it can be raised by demonstrating sustained effort and improvement over the semester in the quality and thoughtfulness of your contribution 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 her or him know by email in advance of a 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:

M Feb 27: Paper 1 topics distributed (choice of four questions)

T Mar 7: Paper 1 DUE by 11:59 PM

Th Mar 16: Midterm

M Apr 24: Paper 2 topics distributed (choice of four questions or opportunity to design own)

T May 2: 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 part 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>

Specific guidance on source citation in this course will be given in advance of written assignments.

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.

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 March 16, 2017
 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 two required books for this section, as well as the required Kolbert book and Iclicker for the lectures:

John Broome, *Climate Matters* (Norton, 2013)

Dale Jamieson, *Reason in a Dark Time* (Oxford UP, 2014)

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 2/13) Climate change as a wicked ethical problem

- 1) Stephen Gardiner, “Ethics and Global Climate Change,” *Ethics* 114 (April 2004), pp. 555–600 (Sections VI and VII)
- 2) Dale Jamieson, “Obstacles to Action,” in *Reason in a Dark Time* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), pp. 61-104.
- 3) John Broome, *Climate Matters: Ethics in a Warming World* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2012), Chapter 1: Introduction (pp.1-15) and Chapter 2: Science (pp.16-36).

Precept 2 (Week 3 – beg 2/20) Economics and ethics

- 1) Thomas Schelling (1995), Intergenerational Discounting, *Energy Policy*, 23, 395-401.
- 2) Dale Jamieson, “The Limits of Economics,” in *Reason in a Dark Time* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), pp. 105-143
- 3) John Broome, *Climate Matters*, Chapter 3: Economics (pp.37-48) and Chapter 4: Justice and Fairness (pp.49-72).

Precept 3 (Week 4 – beg 2/27) Visualizing the distant

- 1) "Introduction" from *Slow Violence and the Environmentalism of the Poor*. Harvard University Press, 2013, pp. 1-44 and 283-291
- 2) John Broome, *Climate Matters*, Chapter 5: Private Morality (pp.73-96); Chapter 6: Goodness (pp.97-116).

Precept 4 (Week 5 – beg 3/6) Values at stake in the environmental catastrophe: present people, future people and nature.

- 1) John Broome, *Climate Matters*, Chapter 8: The Future versus the Present (pp.133-155)
- 2) Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 1 (1972), pp. 229-243.
- 3) Richard Routley, "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, 1973), pp. 205-10

Precept 5 (Week 6 – beg 3/13) – Anthropocene

- 1) Elizabeth Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction* (New York: Henry and Holt Co., 2014).
- 2) Holmes Rolston III, "The Wilderness Idea Reaffirmed," *The Environmental Professional* 13 (1991), pp. 370-377

[Spring break]

Precept 6 (Week 7 – beg 3/27) Individual responsibility and the environmental catastrophe

- 1) Joakim Sandberg, "'My Emissions Make No Difference': Climate Change and the Argument from Inconsequentialism," *Environmental Ethics* 33 (2011), pp. 229-248).
- 2) Walter Sinnott-Armstrong, "It's Not My Fault: Global Warming and Individual Moral Obligations" in Walter Sinnott-Armstrong & Richard Howarth (eds.), *Perspectives on Climate Change: Science, Economics, Politics, Ethics* (Bingley, UK: Elsevier, 2005), pp. 285-307.
- 3) John Broome, *Climate Matters*, Chapter 9: Lives (pp.156-168).

Precept 7 (Week 8 – beg 4/3) Poverty and inequality

- 1) Simon Caney, "Climate change and the duties of the advantaged," *Critical Rev. of Int. Soc. and Pol. Phil.* 13 (2010), pp. 203–28.
- 2) Henry Shue, "Global Environment and International Inequality," *International Affairs* 75 (1999), pp. 531-545
- 3) John Broome, *Climate Matters*, Chapter 10: Population (pp.169-186).

Precept 8 (Week 9 – beg 4/10) Animals, species and biodiversity

- 1) Holmes Rolston III, "Duties to Endangered Species," *BioScience* 35 (1985), pp.

- 718-726.
- 2) Lilly-Marlene Russow, “Why Do Species Matter?,” *Environmental Ethics* 3 (1981), pp. 101-112.

Precept 9 (Week 10 – beg 4/17) – Expanding the moral community: Is there a need for a new environmental ethic?

- 1) Dale Jamieson, “Animal Liberation is an Environmental Ethic,” *Environmental Values* 7 (1998), pp. 41-57.
- 2) Ian Campbell, “Animal Welfare and Environmental Ethics: It’s Complicated,” (typescript to be provided) 2) Lilly-Marlene Russow, “Why Do Species Matter?,” *Environmental Ethics* 3 (1981), pp. 101-112.
- 3) John Broome, *Climate Matters*, Chapter 11: Summary (pp.187-192).

Precept 10 (Week 11 – beg 4/24) – Case study on Adaptation

- 1) Case study common lecture reading.
- 2) Tim Mulgan, *Ethics for a Broken World* (Durham: Acumen, 2011), pp. 198-220.
- 3) Melissa Lane, *Eco-Republic* (Princeton: PUP, 2012), Chapter 3 including its prologue (pp.47-76)

Precept 11 (Week 12 – beg 5/1) –Technology

- 1) Stephen Gardiner, ‘Is ‘arming the future’ with geoengineering really the lesser evil? Some doubts about the ethics of intentionally manipulating the climate system’, in S. Gardiner, D. Jamieson, S. Caney and H. Shue (eds.), *Climate Ethics: Essential Readings* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010), pp. 284–314.
- 2) Christopher Preston, “Re-Thinking the Unthinkable: Environmental Ethics and the Presumptive Argument Against Geoengineering,” *Environmental Values* 20 (2011), 457–479.