This course has 4 learning outcomes. Instruction, course material and grading will develop in the students:

1. The ability to critically evaluate ethical arguments and viewpoints with respect to environmental issues;
2. The capacity to apply ethical decision-making “tools” to environmental problem contexts;
3. Knowledge of the reasons and causes of ethical disagreement with respect to environmental issues;
4. Knowledge of the many environmental themes of the Faculty of Environment and an introduction to some of the key challenges facing environmental governance research and action.

Students will be evaluated as follows:

1. 25% for three 1-page (double-spaced) expository assignments based on assigned readings: due on Learn by 11:59 PM October 3rd, October 24th, November 14th
2. 30% for a 5-page essay on an assigned theme (Due on December 5th)
3. 10% for attendance and participation, including use of i-clicker technology (see note on page 4 below)
4. 35% for final examination (2.5 hours, to be scheduled during exam period)

*Note there will be a penalty of 5%/day for late submissions.*

**Theme and Tentative Topic Schedule:**

(Page numbers are taken from Environmental Ethics: What Really Matters, What Really Works, 3rd Edition; page numbers for the second edition are available on Learn.)

**Weeks 1 and 2: Ethics and the Environment**

The nature, character and importance of ethics in human life: is ethics related mostly to good outcomes or to good intentions, or neither? What is the relation of reason to ethical thinking and judgement? What is the relevance of widespread disagreement about ethics? What are some of the theories and tools for reaching greater ethical consensus?
Wednesday, September 12th: Environmental Ethics as a Branch of Philosophy; Classic Moral Dilemmas, and How to Think About them: Introduction to Ethical Theory; Is there an 'Environmentalist's dilemma'?


Assigned readings for September 12th: Environmental Ethics: Introduction (available on LEARN); Assigned readings for September 19th: ‘The Land Ethic’(33); ‘Philosophical Problems for Environmentalism’ (469); ‘Toward Unity Among Environmentalists’ (481); ‘The Concept of Sustainability’ (available on Learn)

Week 3: Consideration and Moral Standing for Humans and Non-Humans

The case for biocentrism: should natural things have legal rights? Is biodiversity valuable in itself? The elephant management problem – diversity and hard choices.

Wednesday, September 26th: Extending Moral Concern to non-humans and the Threat of Anthropocentrism?

Assigned readings for September 26th: ‘Why Put a Value on Biodiversity?’ (Available on LEARN); ‘All Animals are Equal’ (118); ‘Animal Liberation and Environmental Ethics: Bad Marriage, Quick Divorce’ (141)

Week 4: Values and Priorities: A Challenge to the ‘Management’ Paradigm

Wednesday, October 3rd: Environmental Ethics in Practice: Stewardship or Management? The distinction between values and priorities: A South African Case Study

Assigned readings for October 3rd: ‘The Elephant Management Dilemma’ (293); ‘Natural Enemies: An Anatomy of Environmental Conflict’ (311)

Weeks 5 & 6: Business: Are Doing Good and Doing Well Compatible?

Do businesses have obligations to the environment, and if so, are they positive obligations? Who should be responsible for collective decision making involving different sectors? What are the environmental obligations of transnational corporations, and how should we enforce them?

Wednesday, October 10th: Thanksgiving holiday/study break. Note that the makeup class will be held on Friday, October 12th.

Assigned readings for October 12th: ‘The Social Responsibility of Business is to Increase Profits’ (Available on LEARN); ‘Stakeholder Theory of the Modern Corporation’ (Available on LEARN); ‘The Tragedy of the Commons’ (359)

**Weeks 7, 8 and 9: Economics, Ecosystem Services, and Cost-Benefit Analysis**

Is unlimited growth compatible with sustainability? What can economics contribute to our understanding of environmental ethics and policy? Can environmental values be understood in economic terms? What role can technology and infrastructure design play in building a sustainable future?

- **Wednesday, October 17th:** The Market Mechanism, the Logic of Scarcity, and Environmentalism

  Assigned readings: ‘Living on a Lifeboat’ (74); ‘Can the Supply of Natural Resources Really be Infinite? Yes!’ (Available on LEARN); ‘Steady State Economics: A New Paradigm’ (Available on Learn)

- **Wednesday, October 24th:** The Use of and Limits to Cost-benefit Analysis

  Assigned Readings: ‘Cost-Benefit Analysis: An Ethical Critique’ (413); ‘A Place for Cost-Benefit Analysis (433)’; ‘The Value of the World’s Ecosystem Services and Natural Capital’ (Available on LEARN)

- **Wednesday, October 31st:** Economic arguments for environmental ends: Examining the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

  Assigned Readings: ‘Ecosystems and Human Wellbeing: Summary for Decision Makers (Available on LEARN); ‘Value Pluralism and Economic Valuation: Defendable if Well Done’ (Available on LEARN)

**Weeks 10 & 11: Sustainable Development, Human Rights, and Moral Thresholds**

How is environmental ethics connected to social justice? What are the cultural influences on our perception of the environment? Do different cultural perspectives have important contributions to make to our understanding of the environment in relation to human activity? Are different cultures differentially affected by environmental and economic policy?

- **Wednesday, November 7th:** Human Rights and the Capacity to Secure Rights: Are adequate foods and clean water human rights?

- **Wednesday, November 14th:** No class

  Assigned Readings: ‘Radical American Environmentalism and Wilderness Preservation: A Third-World Critique’ (277); ‘Environmental Justice’ (420); ‘Women, Poverty, and Population: Issues for the Concerned Environmentalist’ (81);
Wednesday, November 21st: Autonomy, consent, and consultation: climate change as the ethical and development challenge of our time

Wednesday, November 28th: Summary and review for exam

Assigned Readings: ‘Ethics, Public Policy and Global Warming (542); ‘A Perfect Moral Storm: Climate Change, Intergenerational Ethics and the Problem of Corruption’ (Available on Learn); The Climate Challenge (551).

Notes on i-Clicker Use in the Course to calculate participation and attendance grade:

Students will be expected to come to class ready to answer questions with clickers. Students who answer 75% of questions in a given class will receive full marks for participation that day. At the end of term, a participation grade will be calculated based on the percentage of class questions answered. Every student will receive one ‘grace day’ in the term where they will not be penalized for absence. If you need to miss more than one class for a legitimate reason, please contact the instructor or one of your TA’s. i-clickers are available at the UW bookstore. Students who do not wish to purchase a clicker may purchase software for use on their cell.

Intellectual Property: For further information on IP related to teaching, please see https://uwaterloo.ca/legal-and-immigration-services/sites/ca.legal-and-immigration-services/files/uploads/files/volume_1_issue_3_winter_2018.pdf and the Guidelines for Faculty, Staff and Students Entering Relationships with External Organizations Offering Access to Course Materials, https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/faculty-staff-and-students-entering-relationships-external. The following text is recommended: Students should be aware that this course contains the intellectual property of their instructor, TA, and/or the University of Waterloo. Intellectual property includes items such as:

- Lecture content, spoken and written (and any audio/video recording thereof);
- Lecture handouts, presentations, and other materials prepared for the course (e.g., PowerPoint slides);
- Questions or solution sets from various types of assessments (e.g., assignments, quizzes, tests, final exams); and
- Work protected by copyright (e.g., any work authored by the instructor or TA or used by the instructor or TA with permission of the copyright owner).

Course materials and the intellectual property contained therein, are used to enhance a student’s educational experience. However, sharing this intellectual property without the intellectual property owner’s permission is a violation of intellectual property rights. For this reason, it is necessary to ask the instructor, TA and/or the University of Waterloo for permission before uploading and sharing the intellectual property of others online (e.g., to an online repository).

Permission from an instructor, TA or the University is also necessary before sharing the intellectual property of others from completed courses with students taking the same/similar courses in subsequent terms/years. In many cases, instructors might be happy to allow distribution of certain materials. However, doing so without expressed permission is considered a violation of intellectual property rights.

Please alert the instructor if you become aware of intellectual property belonging to others (past or present) circulating, either through the student body or online. The intellectual property rights owner deserves to know (and may have already given their consent).

Mental Health: The University of Waterloo, the Faculty of Environment and our Departments/Schools consider students’ well-being to be extremely important. We recognize that throughout the term students may face health challenges - physical and / or emotional. Please note that help is available. Mental health is a serious issue for everyone and can affect your ability to do your best work. Counselling Services http://www.uwaterloo.ca/counselling-services is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and confidential space for
anyone to seek support. They offer confidential counselling for a variety of areas including anxiety, stress management, depression, grief, substance use, sexuality, relationship issues, and much more.

Religious Observances:
Students need to inform the instructor at the beginning of term if special accommodation needs to be made for religious observances that are not otherwise accounted for in the scheduling of classes and assignments.

Unclaimed assignments:
Unclaimed assignments will be retained for ... [period of time*; or: "until one month after term grades become official in quest"]). After that time, they will be destroyed in compliance with UW’s confidential shredding procedures.

Communications with Instructor and Teaching Assistants:
All communication with students must be through either the student’s University of Waterloo email account or via Learn. If a student emails the instructor or TA from a personal account they will be requested to resend the email using their personal University of Waterloo email account.

Academic Integrity:
In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/

♦ Students who are unsure what constitutes an academic offence are requested to visit the on-line tutorial at http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/ait/

Research Ethics: Please also note that the ‘University of Waterloo requires all research conducted by its students, staff, and faculty which involves humans as participants to undergo prior ethics review and clearance through the Director, Office of Human Research and Animal Care (Office). The ethics review and clearance processes are intended to ensure that projects comply with the Office’s Guidelines for Research with Human Participants (Guidelines) as well as those of provincial and federal agencies, and that the safety, rights and welfare of participants are adequately protected. The Guidelines inform researchers about ethical issues and procedures which are of concern when conducting research with humans (e.g. confidentiality, risks and benefits, informed consent process, etc.). If the development of your research proposal consists of research that involves humans as participants, the please contact the course instructor for guidance and see http://iris.uwaterloo.ca/ethics/

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Office located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AccessAbility Office at the beginning of each academic term.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please contact your Undergraduate Advisor for details.

Discipline A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offence, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties, check Guidelines for Assessment of Penalties, www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm

♦ Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 – (Student Discipline) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 (Student Appeals) www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm

♦ LEARN: Users can login to LEARN via:
http://learn.uwaterloo.ca/
use your WatIAM/Quest username and password

Documentation is available at:
http://av.uwaterloo.ca/uwace/training_documentation/index.html