

JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
State University of New York

INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Title: Environmental Issues/Ethics

Course Abbreviation and Number: PHL 2570

Credit Hours: 3

Course Type: Lecture

Course Description: Students will gain critical understanding of the impacts of human activities as they affect the earth and the web of life it sustains from both ethical and scientific perspectives. Contemporary environmental issues such as methods and limitations of science and moral reasoning, global warming, ozone depletion, deforestation, animal rights, population growth, waste disposal, biodiversity, and species extinction will be discussed. This team-taught course is offered under biology for natural science credit (BIO 2570) or philosophy for humanities credit (PHL 2570).

Prerequisites: BIO 1570 and ENG 1530.

General Education Requirements Met

JCC

Global Perspectives

Student Learning Outcomes:

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1. Evaluate and define the underlying ethical issues that motivate some of today's controversies and concerns in environmental ethics;
 2. Develop, define, and explain their moral point of view and personal ethic associated with environmental issues of global, regional, and personal importance;
 3. Evaluate, analyze, and discuss the claims of science, evidence, models, and predictions associated with the biodiversity crisis, animal rights, population growth, deforestation, and other environmental issues of special concern;
 4. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of scientific and moral reasoning, and the relationship between the two; and
 5. Research, critique and present specific environmental ethical issues in written and oral discourse.
 6. Demonstrate awareness of systemic global issues and the impact of individual and collective decisions on life around the world. [JCC Gen Ed – Global Perspectives]
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Topics Covered:

- Survey of Environmental Issues and Concerns;
 - Introduction to the Concept of an Environmental Ethic
 - Determining our Relationship with the Earth and Developing an
 - Environmental Ethic
 - Ecocentrism: The Land Ethic
 - Biodiversity and Habitat Loss
 - The Moral Consideration of Animals, Compassionate Living, and the
 - Issue of Animal Rights
 - Global Climate Change – the Greenhouse Effect, Ozone Depletion, Air
 - Pollution, and Toxics
 - Population and Community Ecology, The Human Population, and
 - Sustainability Issues
 - Water Resources, Water Rights, and Water Pollution
 - Economics, Ethics, and the Environment
 - Other Perspectives – Ecofeminism, Non-Western Views and Other Cultures,
 - Historical and Contemporary
 - Student Selections and Class Presentations
 - Conclusions: Environmental Issues and Ethics --- What have we learned? Where do we go from here?
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Information for Students

- Expectations of Students
 - [Civility Statement](#)

- [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
- [Academic Integrity Statement](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)
Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.
- [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)
- [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)
- Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
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- Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.

Effective Date: Fall 2023