Washtenaw Community College Comprehensive Report

PHL 241 Environmental Ethics
Effective Term: Winter 2021

Course Cover

Division: Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences
Department: Humanities, Languages & the Arts
Discipline: Philosophy (new)
Course Number: 241
Org Number: 11540
Full Course Title: Environmental Ethics
Transcript Title: Environmental Ethics
Is Consultation with other department(s) required: No
Publish in the Following: College Catalog , Time Schedule , Web Page
Reason for Submission: New Course
Change Information:
Rationale: This course was created in response to a need in the Environmental Science, Associate in Science degree program. This course will give students the ability to transfer with a completed degree in Environmental Science. In addition, environmental issues and our moral responsibilities regarding the environment are becoming an ever-increasing concern throughout contemporary society. This course will prepare all students to think more carefully and critically about our individual and collective environmental responsibilities.
Proposed Start Semester: Winter 2021
Course Description: In this course, students will be introduced to philosophical ethics and its application to contemporary environmental issues. Environmental degradation is easily recognizable; however, the obligation to remedy or prevent such degradation is highly contested. Students will examine and consider the nature and extent of moral responsibility as it pertains to the natural world. After building a foundational understanding of environmental ethical theory and concepts, a number of contemporary environmental issues will be examined (including environmental justice, climate change, population and consumption, food ethics, sustainability, pollution and waste management).

Course Credit Hours

Variable hours: No
Credits: 3
Lecture Hours: Instructor: 45 **Student:** 45
Lab: Instructor: 0 **Student:** 0
Clinical: Instructor: 0 **Student:** 0

Total Contact Hours: Instructor: 45 **Student:** 45
Repeatable for Credit: NO
Grading Methods: Letter Grades
Audit
Are lectures, labs, or clinicals offered as separate sections?: NO (same sections)

College-Level Reading and Writing

College-level Reading & Writing

College-Level Math

Requisites

General Education

General Education Area 6 - Arts and Humanities

Assoc in Applied Sci - Area 6
Assoc in Science - Area 6
Assoc in Arts - Area 6

Michigan Transfer Agreement - MTA

MTA Humanities

Request Course Transfer

Proposed For:

Central Michigan University
College for Creative Studies
Eastern Michigan University
Ferris State University
Grand Valley State University
Jackson Community College
Kendall School of Design (Ferris)
Lawrence Tech
Michigan State University
Oakland University
University of Detroit - Mercy
University of Michigan
Wayne State University
Western Michigan University

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Identify central concepts from philosophical ethics and ethical theories applicable to the environment.
   Assessment 1
   Assessment Tool: Outcome-related matching or multiple-choice questions
   Assessment Date: Winter 2023
   Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years
   Course section(s)/other population: All
   Number students to be assessed: All students
   How the assessment will be scored: Answer key
   Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of students will score 70% or higher
   Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

2. Define and explain the central principles and/or features of the theories of environmental ethics examined in the class.
   Assessment 1
   Assessment Tool: Essay question
   Assessment Date: Winter 2023
   Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years
   Course section(s)/other population: All
   Number students to be assessed: A random sample of 50% of all students with a minimum of one full section
   How the assessment will be scored: Departmentally-developed rubric
   Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of students will score 70% or higher
   Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

3. Analyze contemporary ethical issues involving the environment by applying the ethical theories and concepts covered in the course.

Assessment 1

Assessment Tool: Essay question
Assessment Date: Winter 2023
Assessment Cycle: Every Three Years
Course section(s)/other population: All
Number students to be assessed: A random sample of 50% of all students with a minimum of one full section
How the assessment will be scored: Departmentally-developed rubric
Standard of success to be used for this assessment: 70% of students will score 70% or higher
Who will score and analyze the data: Departmental faculty

Course Objectives

1. Identify environmental ethics as a normative discipline.
2. Recognize the basic tenets of philosophical ethics covered in the course.
3. Define the influence of classical ethical theories on theories of environmental ethics.
4. Identify the central theories and positions in environmental ethics.
5. Define the central concepts in environmental ethics.
6. Compare and contrast the approaches and theories of environmental ethics discussed.
7. Recognize moral dilemmas and problematic situations that involve our relationship to the environment.
8. Apply the ethical theories and concepts covered in the course to contemporary environmental ethics issues, such as: sustainability, pollution, climate change, population and consumption, and food production and distribution, among others.
9. Examine contemporary environmental ethics issues using ethical theories and concepts.

New Resources for Course

Course Textbooks/Resources

Textbooks

Pojman, L. *Environmental Ethics: Readings in Theory and Application.* , 7th ed. Cengage , 2017, ISBN: 9781285197241.

Manuals
Periodicals
Software

Equipment/Facilities

Level III classroom

Reviewer	Action	Date
Faculty Preparer:		
Meghan Bungo	*Faculty Preparer*	*Sep 08, 2020*
Department Chair/Area Director:		
Jill Jepsen	*Recommend Approval*	*Sep 16, 2020*
Dean:		
Scott Britten	*Recommend Approval*	*Sep 25, 2020*
Curriculum Committee Chair:		
Lisa Veasey	*Recommend Approval*	*Oct 27, 2020*
Assessment Committee Chair:		
Shawn Deron	*Recommend Approval*	*Oct 27, 2020*
Vice President for Instruction:		