



**PHIL 2013WA/ENST 2013WA Environmental Philosophy
Winter 2023
January 9 - April 11**

Instructor: TBD

E-mail: TBA

Class Hours: NA, Web-based on D2L

Office Hours: TBA

Course Description

This course focuses primarily on the political dimensions of our historical and contemporary relationships to the natural or non-human world. While some attention will be paid to ethical fundamentals (such as the notion of an environmental ethic) and to what could be understood as classically 'philosophical' issues (such as the metaphysics and epistemology of our theories of the natural world,) we look at these with an eye to discovering their just application or implementation in existing circumstances. Students should expect the course to be rather more pragmatically oriented than might be usual in philosophy courses generally. Students should also expect, as a consequence, to deepen their understanding of the political issues and problems engendered by our attempts to achieve environmental justice and efficiency, and to articulate, frame, and formulate reasoned arguments, both orally and in writing, concerning these matters.

Required texts

John S. Dryzek and David Schlosberg, *Debating the Earth: The Environmental Politics Reader, 2nd edition* (Oxford University Press, 2005)

Some additional required texts will be distributed via the D2L site for this course (available via MyCourseLink on the Lakehead University website)

Scheduled readings to be assigned on a weekly basis, dependent on class progression through the required material (my expectation is that we will cover the entirety of the Dryzek & Schlosberg volume, with the exception of Part 2, section iii, as well as some additional material)

Evaluation:

30% -- mid-term examination, available online via the Quizzes link on the D2L site for this course; examination to be available for sitting between 12:01am and 11:59pm on the date set for the examination (TBA); multiple-choice & T/F format

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30% -- take home exam (questions and instructions available on the D2L site for this course; due



in class, TBA); short essay format

10% -- participation (frequency and calibre of in-class participation)

Please note that the following policies govern student conduct in this course:

1. the use of laptop computers, tablets, cellphones or equivalent devices during class is strictly prohibited, except in cases of demonstrated need. Cellphones should be switched off (and not simply be in silent/vibration mode;) laptops must be closed. Devices must be stored; those found to be in open view will be taken to be in use. Students found to be in contravention of this policy will be taken to be in violation of the Lakehead University Code of Student Behaviour, article I, sections 2.2, 2.7, or 2.9, as appropriate, and may be subject to the sanctions detailed in article II.
2. classes begin promptly on the hour (or the half-hour, as scheduled) and continue for allotted time. Students arriving late (allowing for a grace period of 5 minutes) or leaving early (without previously-obtained permission from the instructor), therefore, will be taken to be in violation of the same sections of the Code as above, and subject to the same sanctions.
3. late assignments are not permitted, except by prior arrangement with the instructor or as a result of exceptional and extenuating circumstances (in such circumstances, however, students must provide supporting documentation.) Submissions must be hard-copy (electronic submissions are permitted only by prior permission of the instructor.)
4. web or internet sources cannot form part of any bibliography for any assignment (students are encouraged to acquaint themselves with the difference between electronic resources and internet or web sources.) Failure to abide by this policy will result in a grade of 0 for the relevant assignment.
5. plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be dealt with accordingly, as will any case of academic misconduct. Students are encouraged to acquaint themselves with article I, section 1, of the Code in order to prevent any inadvertent violations.
6. all references and citations for any assignment are to be in Chicago Manual of Style format.