



Notre Dame University-Louaize  
Faculty of Natural & Applied Sciences  
Department of Sciences

Spring 2011

## ENS 205 – Environment, Society & Ethics Syllabus - (3.0); 3cr.

Taught by  
Dr. Elsa J. Sattout

Sec A  
Sec B

Office Hours [Office: Dep. Of Sciences S 228]  
MWF 8:00 – 10:00  
TTH 11:00 – 12:00  
MWF 1:00-2:00  
TTH 8:00 – 9:30

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### 1. Course Description

The course introduces the students to environmental ethics, population dynamics and community organization. It interprets the environmental ethic views as well as the interactions between societies, culture and nature based the utilitarian and intrinsic value approaches. It discusses the population dynamics and community organization affecting the world's economic balance and consequent impacts on human health and quality of life. It emphasizes the role of international policies, environmental legally binding agreements and conservation principles on the environment and societies. The course will shed the light on the environmental frameworks and regulatory measures and their impacts on societies, on environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources.

### 2. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course the students will be able to:

- **Comprehend** how economic development and population growth have affected the environment, the evolution of societies and human health
- **Acquire basic knowledge** about the environmental ethics views, their interpretations based on perspectives on man's relationship and responsibility to nature as well as their evolution throughout the history of human development and economic growth.
- **Become acquainted** with the human centred and non-human centred approaches and their implications and impacts on shaping international policies and regulatory framework.
- **Realize the importance** of "reconnecting with nature" while developing a personal code of environmental ethics to be adopted in their everyday's life to maintain a sustainable, prosperous and healthy societies.

### 3. Teaching Methodology and Techniques

Teaching this course will be by classroom lectures based on power point presentations. The lecture notes are available on Blackboard. The students will be invited to participate to class discussions or give in class oral presentations relevant to the course's content.

Documentary DVDs (audio-visual aids) will be shown. These will be followed by class discussions. Questionnaires to be filled by the students will be distributed after each documentary.

### 4. Required Textbook:

- Wenz P. S. 2001. Environmental Ethics Today. Oxford University Press. UK.

### 5. Resources Available to Students

- Library Resources: The Mariam and Youssef Library (Main Campus) provides access to an expanding collection of core reference and circulating materials in print, manuscript, electronic, audio, visual, cartographic, and other appropriate formats

- Blackboard (bb) Software: Provided by the University Computer Services to enrich the academic communication with your instructor and your colleagues. The course documents are available on Blackboard.

## 6. Grading and Evaluation

Exam I +Exam II 40%  
Project 15%

**Final Exam (cumulative) 40%**

Attendance & class participation 5%

Exams: Multiple-choice questions & Essays.

## 7. Course Schedule

Weeks	Topics
February 22,2011	Course Overview & Introduction
<b>General Overview &amp; Principles on the Environment</b>	
Week 1	<b>Topic 1.</b> Environmental services & Goods <b>Topic 2.</b> Threats to Biodiversity & Environmental degradation
Week 2	<i>PPT &amp; Documentary: HOME by Yann Arthus-Bertrand</i> <b>Topic 4.</b> Conservation Biology Movements
Week 3	<b>Topic 3.</b> Natural Resources Management <i>Documentary: South African Parks by GTZ followed by Discussions</i>
<b>Part I. Anthropocentrism: Human Centered Approach</b>	
Week 4	Topic 1.1. Overpopulation, Markets & Human Rights
Week 5	Topic 1.2. Energy, Economics & Future Generations
Week 6	Topic 1.3. Competing Human Centered values
Exam I	Tuesday 5 APRIL 2011 Exam Hall III 12:30 – 1:30 PM
<b>Part II. Non-anthropocentrism: Non-human Centered Approach</b>	
Week 7	Topic 2.1. Animal liberation & Utilitarianism
Week 8	Topic 2.2. Animal Rights & Medical Research
Week 9	Topic 2.3. Species Diversity & Gaia
Week 10	Topic 2.4. The Land Ethics
<b>Part III. Environmental Synergism</b>	
Week 11	Topic 3.1. Human rights, Agriculture & Biodiversity <i>Documentary: The Gene Revolution &amp; Implications on societies followed by Discussion</i>
Week 12	Topic 3.2. Eco-feminism & Environmental Justice
Exam II	Tuesday 17 MAY 2011 Exam Hall III 12:30-1:30PM
Week 13	Topic 3.3. Religion & Nature
<b>Part IV. Applications</b>	
Week 14	Topic 4.1. Public policies, Efficiency & Globalization Topic 4.2. Personal Choices, Consumerism & Human Rights
Week 15	Topic 4.3. Environment in Lebanon & Regulatory measures: Does Environmental Ethic Stand?
<b>NATURE EXPLORATION</b>	<b>SATURDAY 4 JUNE 2011:TRIP TO HORSH EHDEN NATURE RESERVE</b>
Week 16	Project's Presentations
Final Exam	JUNE

## 8- Additional references

- Baird J. Callicott and Robert Frodeman, Encyclopedia of environmental ethics and philosophy, (Shelf mark: 179.1 E5641; **NDU Main Library**)
- Joseph R. DesJardins. Environmental ethics : an introduction to environmental philosophy, (Shelf mark: 179.1 D459e; **NDU Main Library**)

- John Aber, Tom Kelly, and Bruce Mallory, *The sustainable learning community : one university's journey to the future*, (Shelf mark: 378.742 S9648; **NDU Main Library**)
- Peter S. Wenz, *Environmental ethics today*, (Shelf mark: 179.1 W482e; **NDU Main Library**)
- John Benson, *Environmental ethics: an introduction with readings*, (Shelf mark: 179.1 B474e; **Available at NDU Main Library**)
- Fox Warwick, *Ethics and the built environment*, (Shelf mark: 720.47 E84; **Available at NDU Main Library**)
- Mark Sagoff, *The economy of the earth: philosophy, law, and the environment*, 2nd ed, (Shelf mark: 363.7056 S1299e2; **Available at NDU Main Library**)

#### 9. Course Policies:

**A) a) "The maximum number of absences for classes that meet on MWF is six, the maximum number for classes that meet on TTh and in the summer is four (or two hours per credit course). Any student whose absences exceed the maximum limits shall automatically fail the course unless the student withdraws".**

The word "absences" above includes authorized (excused) as well as unexcused (unauthorized) absences. **"Even below the maximum number of absences, a pattern of absences, whether authorized or not, may alter one's grade substantially".**

Students who wish to validate their absences have to do so through the SAO, which **"alone authorizes absences"**. Finally, **"no absence absolves a student from the responsibility of acting upon the material presented during his/her absence"**.

*(Excerpts from "Student Handbook 2007-08, p. 59)*

**b) "Students registering during the late registration day shall be responsible for all work assigned from the beginning of the semester or the session. They shall be also subject to the requirements of the attendance policy (see a) above) as of the first day of classes".**

*(Excerpt from "Student Handbook 2007-08, p. 25)*

#### **B) Use of Original Textbooks in the Classroom**

**a) "The University does not allow photocopied textbooks in the classroom".**

**b) "Students with photocopied textbooks in a classroom are given one week's notice to use a printed copy".**

**c) "After the one-week notice students with photocopied textbooks are not accepted to be in the classroom".**

**d) "Students who are not accepted in the classroom are reported as absent and the absence policy" (see "Attendance policy" above) "is applied to them for that particular course".**

*(Excerpts from "Faculty Handbook 2007-08, p. 35)*

#### **C) Faculty make-up Exam Policy**

**No make-up exam will be given under normal circumstances. Consequently, students missing an exam, with no justified reason, will lose the grade value of that exam.**

#### **Justified make-up:**

Make up exams would take place under the following conditions:

- The student shows that missing the exam was beyond his/her control.
- The instructor and the chairperson accept the case presented and approve of the make-up.
- The make-up exam shall be done in 3-4 days after the elapse of the exam date.
- The student will lose 10 points out of 100 of the grade value of the exam in question.

#### **D) Policy on Academic Integrity**

Students are urgently requested to read this policy on pages 43-44 of the "Student Handbook 2007-08" and to abide by its standards. Students will be held accountable for any academic dishonesty or misconduct violating this policy.

#### **E) Smoking policy**

***“NDU prohibits smoking in all indoor facilities”***. This includes the FNAS premises. Consequently, students are asked to refrain from smoking when entering the FNAS building, and not only the classroom. ***“Disciplinary measures”*** against contravening students ***“may be taken starting from a written warning up to and including freezing student facilities and having a written remark on the student’s transcript of records”***.

(Excerpts from “Student Handbook 2007-08, pp. 65-66)

#### **Quotes:**

- For as long as Man continues to be the ruthless destroyer of lower living beings, he will never know peace. For as long as men massacre animals, they will kill each other. Indeed, he who sows the seeds of murder and pain cannot reap joy & love". Pythagoras
- The unleashed power of atom has changed everything except our way of thinking... we need an essentially new way of thinking if mankind is to survive." A. Einstein.
- Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: Indeed it's the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead