

# PHI3033 Fall 2018 (W)

## Philosophy, Religion, and the Environment

### Instructor Contact

- Instructor: Jeanine E. Viau, Ph.D.
- Office: Psychology Building, Room 224
- Office Hours: MW 2:30-3:30PM or by appointment
- E-mail: [jeanine.viau@ucf.edu](mailto:jeanine.viau@ucf.edu)

\*\*\*The official modes of communication for this course are external email and internal Canvas messages. The instructor will only respond to external email sent to her @ucf.edu email address (listed above) by students using their @knights.ucf.edu email addresses. Also, please do not expect an immediate response to messages and emails. Forty-eight hours is a reasonable amount of time in which to expect a response.

### Course Information

- Course Name: Philosophy, Religion, and the Environment
- Course ID & Section: PHI3033-0W61
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Fall 2018
- Location: Online

### Course Description

This course is designed to help students develop sensitivity and critical awareness in their thinking about environmental issues. It revolves around a multicultural treatment of the influence of philosophical and religious views on our understanding of, and relation to, the environment, and explores how different religions and philosophies regard the environment. This course also aims to help students gain an appreciation of the interconnectedness of all life forms on earth, and to understand that the way we value and act in the environment has far-reaching repercussions.

Prerequisites: Junior standing or consent of the instructor.

### Course Objectives

- To analyze and describe how various religions and philosophies understand and value the environment

- To articulate one's particular “worldview” in relation to others with the recognition that one's view is part of a particular time and tradition and can be both challenged and enhanced by other views
- To apply various perspectives and strategies in response to pressing ecological and environmental concerns

## Required Texts

- Gottlieb, Richard S., ed. *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, Environment*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2004. The full text is available through the library website at <https://www-taylorfrancis-com.ezproxy.net.ucf.edu/books/9781136915390>. The library ebook allows for an unlimited number of simultaneous users which means that you do not need to purchase the book unless you want your own copy.
- Silverstein, Shel. *The Giving Tree*. Harper & Row, 1964. Any edition is OK. I suggest visiting one of Orlando's public libraries.

\*\*\*Throughout the course, there may be additional readings, films, and other materials assigned that are not in the textbooks. These readings will be specified under Modules for each respective week and will be available electronically through Canvas.

## Evaluation and Grading

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	100-94%
A-	93-90%
B+	89-86%
B	85-80%
C+	79-76%
C	75-70%
D+	69-66%
D	65-60%

F	59 and below
---	--------------

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Quizzes	50%
Discussions	15%
Eco-Fast Log	20%
Group Project	15%
Total	100%

## Course Requirements

**Readings:** There are readings, films, and other materials assigned each week in this course. The assigned materials are listed in each weekly overview and on the weekly readings pages available under [Modules](#). Your success in graded discussions and on quizzes will depend on your demonstrating clear understanding and critical engagement with these materials.

**Discussions:** You are required to participate in a graded discussion in each module that you do not have a written assignment due. Your initial posts will respond to a structured prompt. Be sure to answer these prompts in their entirety using direct references to the assigned readings, films, etc. Your initial posts are due by Wednesday at 11:59pm. You are also required to respond to at least two classmates in each discussion before Sunday at 11:59pm. Discussions will be graded based on three criteria: 1) the quality of your initial post, 2) the quality of your responses to classmates, and 3) whether or not you meet the participation requirements. Please review the Discussion Guidelines available under [Course Expectations](#) for more information. Please note that for all written work in this course, you should use either MLA or Turabian style guidelines for source citations and bibliographies.

**Quizzes:** Quizzes are assigned at the close of each two-week module, including a Syllabus Quiz assigned at the close of the first week. Quizzes are administered through Canvas. Generally quizzes will be 25-30 questions and will combine short answer, multiple-choice, matching, and true/false formats. These are open-book assessments.

However, you will only have 40 minutes to complete the quiz once you begin the assessment. Each quiz will be available for 24 hours, 12am-11:59pm on the last Friday of each module.

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT** - As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the Syllabus Quiz no later than Friday of the first week of class at 11:59PM. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.**

**Eco-Fast:** You are required to engage in a one-week (7-day) eco-fast in the first half of the semester and maintain a daily log of your experience. You may choose from three options relevant to philosophical, religious and social justice oriented responses to ecological challenges: 1) a water fast, 2) a technology fast, or 3) a meat fast. Please see the assignment instructions for detailed guidelines of each option and a template for your daily log entries. Your completed Eco-Fast Log is due via Webcourse by Wednesday, October 3rd at 11:59pm.

**Group Project - Annotated Bibliography:** You will work in groups to compose an annotated bibliography relevant to the issue that you chose for your fast. I will assign groups after you submit your Eco-Fast Logs. Each group member will be responsible for contributing at least three sources with annotations corresponding to each of three sub-topic headings in the bibliography: 1) Evidence of Scale; 2) Social Justice Dimensions; and 3) Philosophical and/or Religious Approaches. Please see the assignment instructions for further details. Annotations for each source should be 1-2 paragraphs summarizing the central argument and explaining the source's relevancy to the sub-topic. You will combine your entries into one bibliography for the group adhering to either Turabian or APA style guidelines. All sources must be designated peer-reviewed. You will submit one document for the entire group which is due via Webcourses by Wednesday, November 28th at 11:59pm.

**\*\*\*What is 'peer-reviewed'?** A good indicator of academic rigor is that a source is designated "peer-reviewed." This means that the source has been reviewed and approved for publication by other scholars in the field. Academic sources include academic journal articles, books (also, book chapters or essays from collected volumes), and/or peer-reviewed reference texts. **Do not use .com resources!** A good place to start is the database list available through the UCF Library website. On the database search page, check the box for "Peer-Reviewed".

## Emergencies/Missed Assignments

**Emergencies.** Make sure that any health or personal emergencies are properly documented, and please contact me **as soon as possible** if difficulties arise during the semester.

**Late Work.** Ten percent will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. Please pay close attention to the deadlines listed for each assignment in the Course Schedule and Module Instructions. **Please be aware that a broken or malfunctioning computer, or the inability to retrieve, produce, or submit assignments from a computer will not be accepted as a valid excuse for late work.**

**\*\*\*IMPORTANT** - As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each semester. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the Syllabus Quiz no later than Friday of the first week of classes at 11:59PM. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.**

## Academic Honesty

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the [Office of Student Conduct](#) for further action. See the [UCF Golden Rule](#) for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

In this course we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you will be expected to submit all assignments in electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as an instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process, visit [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com).

## Accommodations

It is my goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students, including those with disabilities that may impact learning in this class. If anyone believes the design of this course poses barriers to effectively participating and/or demonstrating learning in this course, please meet with me (with or without a Student Accessibility Services (SAS) accommodation letter) to discuss reasonable options or adjustments. During our discussion, I may suggest the possibility/necessity of your contacting SAS (Ferrell Commons 185; 407-823-2371; [sas@ucf.edu](mailto:sas@ucf.edu)) to talk about academic accommodations. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about course design concerns, but it is always best if we can talk at least one week prior to the need for any modifications.

# R-E-S-P-E-C-T

In order to learn, we must be open to the views of people different from ourselves. Each and every voice in the classroom is important and brings with it a wealth of experiences, values and beliefs. In this time we share together over the semester, please honor the uniqueness of your fellow classmates, and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from each other. Please respect your fellow students' opinions and refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments of any kind.

The University of Central Florida recognizes that our individual differences can deepen our understanding of one another and the world around us, rather than divide us. In this class, people of all ethnicities, genders and gender identities, religions, ages, sexual orientations, disabilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, and nationalities are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. If you feel your differences may in some way isolate you from UCF's community or if you have need of any specific accommodations, please speak with the instructor early in the semester about your concerns and what we can do together to help you become an active and engaged member of our class and community.

## Tech Concerns

The instructor cannot provide technical support. If students are experiencing problems with myUCF or Canvas, they will need to contact the appropriate department. The Computer Services & Telecommunications Service Desk can be reached at (407) 823-5117, telecom@ucf.edu, and OTC 550 (Main Campus).

Even though computers and word processing software are marvelous time and energy-saving tools, they can and do cause problems from time to time. **Please be aware that a broken or malfunctioning computer, or the inability to retrieve, produce, or submit assignments from a computer will not be accepted as a valid excuse for late work.** It is advised that students make sure their work is saved appropriately, and in more than one location (such as a USB flash drive, external hard drive, CD/DVD, online storage, or even emailing a copy to oneself).

## Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

## Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

## Course Summary:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details</b>
Fri Aug 24, 2018	<a href="#">Syllabus Quiz</a>
Wed Aug 29, 2018	<a href="#">Discussion 1</a>
Fri Sep 7, 2018	<a href="#">Quiz 1</a>
Fri Sep 14, 2018	<a href="#">Quiz 2</a>
Wed Sep 19, 2018	<a href="#">Discussion 2</a>
Fri Sep 28, 2018	<a href="#">Quiz 3</a>
Wed Oct 3, 2018	<a href="#">Eco-Fast Assignment</a>
Fri Oct 12, 2018	<a href="#">Quiz 4</a>
Wed Oct 24, 2018	<a href="#">Discussion 3</a>
Fri Nov 2, 2018	<a href="#">Quiz 5</a>

**Date****Details**

---

Fri Nov 16, 2018

[Quiz 6](#)

---

Wed Nov 28, 2018

[Group Project - Annotated Bibliography](#)

---