PHI3033 Spring 2018 (W)

Philosophy, Religion, and the Environment

Instructor Contact

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***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: Spring 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	40%
Discussions	30%
Group Project	30%
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 the first week of each module. 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 multiple-choice, matching, and true/false formats. These are open-book assessments. However, you

will only have 45 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, January 12th at 11:59PM. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.**

Group Project: Imagine your group is competing for funding to start a web-based student publication at UCF focused on ecology and/or the environment. You must produce a first issue to showcase at the close of the semester. As a group, you will choose one of three possible genres for your publication: 1) Art and Literary, 2) Scholarly Research, or 3) Issues and Opinion. Preliminary assignments leading up to the final submission will be due by Wednesday at 11:59pm in the second week of their respective modules. These preliminary assignments are designed to keep you on task and so that I can monitor your contributions and provide feedback throughout the process. The final project will be submitted as a web link in the last week of class. With the exception of the Submission Draft, the preliminary assignments and the final project will be graded based on three criteria: 1) individual contribution, 2) content, and 3) objectives. The Submission Draft will be graded individually using the Writing Evaluation Rubric available in the assignment description and requires peer-review from your other group members. Please see below for a weighted breakdown of these assignments. Please note that for all written work in this course, you should use either MLA or Turabian style guidelines for source citations and bibliographies.

Component	Points
Group Introductions	2 points
Group Project Proposal	5 points
Submission Draft	10 points
Peer-Reviews of Drafts	3 points
Final Project URL	10 points
Total	30 points

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.

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) 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.