SALEM STATE COLLEGE

COURSE SYLLABUS

PHL 224: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Dr. Krishna Mallick

Spring Semester 2004

************************************************************************

Wednesday and Friday: 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., SB 106

Office: Sullivan Building, Room 203B, Suite 5
Telephone: (978) 542-6298
E-mail address: kmallick@salemstate.edu
Website: www.salemstate.edu/~kmallick

Office hours: Mondays, 12:00 noon to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Wednesdays/Fridays, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
and by appointment at other times

TEXTBOOKS:


COURSE OBJECTIVE: The objective of this course is to 1) develop skill in expressing oneself orally and in writing about environmental issues, 2) learn fundamental principles, generalizations and theories and 3) learn to apply course material to improve rational thinking, problem-solving and decision-making.

ATTENDANCE: Regular attendance is required because your participation in the course is an important aspect of the course development and your development in the course. Attendance will be taken regularly. Any more than 3 unexcused absence will lower your final grade. If you have an excused absence, inform the instructor about that right after the class you are absent. Anyone having too many unexcused absences will get an ‘F’ for the course.

Teaching method will be some lecture, more discussions of environmental issues. Videos will be shown in class to stimulate discussion. There will be debates in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING:
Tests: Two pre-announced tests on topics covered in class. For these tests, your writing skill will be tested. You will be graded on how clearly and consistently you answer the questions you will be asked. Total 30 points, each is worth 15 points.

One take-home test, 10 points

Paper: Each student is required to write a short critical paper (approximately 5 pages, double-spaced) on a specific case related to the following general areas:

POLLUTION, POPULATION, ANIMAL RIGHTS, DEEP ECOLOGY, ECOFEMINISM, FORESTS.

Each student must get approval of the specific case from the instructor. The case for your paper cannot be on the same topic that you have done the debate on. Paper will be graded on the basis of how critically you have analyzed the case that you have selected. Please note that your specific case for the paper and the debate cannot be on the same topic. More guidelines for the paper will be given. 15 points.

Poster Session for Earth Day, Monday, April 12, 2004: 8 points for poster and 7 points for presentation on April 12, 2004, total=15 points. You must be available to present your poster from 11 am-12:15 (Community time) on this day.

Group Presentation: Each group will make a 30-35 minute presentation in debate format on the specific ethical issues related to the topics listed above. This will be graded on the basis of teamwork and how each group has been able to present their point in the form of good argument. This will consist of three parts: 1. You will be asked to research an environmental issue that interests you and each member of the group will be asked to write 3 brief progress reports in preparation for the debate, 2. All members of each group meet the instructor at least a week before your presentation date to discuss about the presentation. It is the group’s responsibility to make appointment with the instructor on time. At the meeting with the instructor, each group must submit an informational handout related to the debate so that the instructor can make copies of that handout and distribute it to the class for their preparation. 3. You will do the group presentation in class. Total 25 points, 3 brief progress reports, 5 points, meeting with the instructor, 3 points, individual grade for the presentation, 9 points, group grade, 8 points.

Three brief reports are due from each student in class. Due dates for brief report will be strictly followed. If you are not in class on the due date, please e-mail me the brief report as Word document attachment to: kmallick@salemstate.edu on time. Please cc to your e-mail address all the e-mails that you send to me. Points will be taken off for being late. Follow the due dates of your group. For each brief report, please write your group number and report number. Every member of each group, make an appointment to see the instructor a week before the debate date.

Format of debate, requirements and due dates for Group Presentation

Group Presentation/Debate format:
Favor                  Against
Introduction          Introduction
(stating facts of the issue and introduce what each person is doing on your side—both sides have an introduction)

Position Statement     Position Statement
(a brief statement of the side that you are taking—both sides have a position statement)

Perspectives –three    Perspective—three
(perspectives must be the same on both sides. State your ethical argument for the perspective selected)

Conclusion            Conclusion
(summarize what you have proved—both side)

Rebuttal—speakers respond to each other’s point and then we open it up for class discussion.

Each student should do Intro and a perspective, position statement and a perspective and conclusion and a perspective.

Group Presentation Requirements

For the first report, state the debate statement in the form of question or this versus that and then state which side of the debate you will be in. A short paragraph is fine.

For the second report, state exactly what perspective you will be taking and what you will be arguing from your perspective. Also state if you will be doing the introduction or position statement or conclusion of your side. This report should be about ½ to ¾ page long.

For the third report, state all the arguments you will be presenting from your perspective in detail. This report should be about 1 ½ to 2 pages.

Write your group number and brief report number for each brief report.

Group 1

First brief report- Friday, February 13, 2004 in class.

Second brief report- Wednesday, February 18, 2004 in class.

Third brief report- Wednesday, February 25, 2004 in class.
Group Presentation on Friday, February 27, 2004

Group 2

First brief report- Wednesday, February 18, 2004 in class.

Second brief report- Wednesday, February 25, 2004 in class.

Third brief report- Wednesday, March 3, 2004 in class.

Group Presentation on Friday, March 5, 2004

Group 3

First brief report- Wednesday, February 25, 2004 in class.

Second brief report- Wednesday, March 3, 2004 in class.

Third brief report- Wednesday, March 10, 2004 in class.

Group Presentation on Friday, March 12, 2004.

Group 4

First brief report- Wednesday, March 3, 2004 in class.

Second brief report- Wednesday, March 10, 2004 in class.

Third brief report- Wednesday, March 24, 2004 in class

Group Presentation on Friday, March 26, 2004

Participation: This will be based on overall participation in class discussions during the semester. If the student does not feel comfortable in participating in class discussion, s/he must submit written comments on the topics/articles discussed in class to the instructor on a regular basis to show some evidence of her/his class participation. The instructor will call on students who are not participating in class discussions. 5 points

There will be no final exam for this course.

There is a subjective factor which is negligible in most instances, but which is used to enhance or lower a grade when there is a question about an individual’s overall participation in the course.

Late Work: Tests can be made up only when there is a legitimate reason for missing the test. Students should call my office (978) 542-6298 on the very day of the test
indicating the reason for missing the test. One make up date will be scheduled within a week after each test and students are required to take the make up test only at that time.

Any student who does not fulfill all the requirements for the course will get an “I” (Incomplete) grade.

Readings and class assignments (Please note that students must finish the assigned reading before that class)

1/21/2004 Wednesday- Introduction to the course. What is Philosophy? What is Ethics? What is Environmental Ethics.

1/23/2004 Friday- Check the website www.cep.unt.edu, click on About Environmental Ethics as an Actual Field and read “A very brief history of the origins of Environmental Ethics for novice,” and read the Introduction, pp. xiii-xxi from Case Studies in Environmental Ethics.

1/28/2004 Wednesday- Continuation of discussion of the brief history of environmental ethics and introduction.

1/30/2004 Friday- Read Case # 39, pp. 221-229 from Case Studies in Environmental Ethics and the handout, Lynn White’s article “The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis.”

2/4/2004 Wednesday- Check the two websites listed in the SOURCES section on page 229 from Case Studies in Environmental Ethics.

2/6/2004 Friday- Watch the video, Nova series, “The Brain Eater” (60 minutes) related to mad cow disease in class followed by discussion. Before this class be knowledgeable about the topic of mad cow disease and the recent case of a cow having mad cow disease in US on your own from the internet.

2/11/2004 Wednesday- Read Case # 8, pp. 39-43 from Case Studies in Environmental Ethics and the handout, Elinor Ostrom’s article.

2/13/2004 Friday- Read Case # 20, pp. 113-115 from Case Studies in Environmental Ethics and handout of Aldo Leopold’s article. Group 1, first brief report due in class.

2/18/2004 Wednesday- Continuation of discussion of Aldo Leopold’s article and review of Test # 1. Group 2, first brief report due in class.

2/20/2004 Friday- Test # 1 on all the materials covered until the last class. Group 1, second brief report due in class.
2/25/2004 Wednesday- Read *Our Stolen Future*, pp. 1-86, chapters 1-5. Be prepared to discuss at least one case in class. Group 1, third brief report and Group 2, second brief report due in class.

Assignment for the next few weeks will be given by 2/25/2004

Links:

[www.cep.unt.edu](http://www.cep.unt.edu)

[www.shc.edu/theolibrary/environ.htm](http://www.shc.edu/theolibrary/environ.htm)