Faculty:
Dr. Mark Rigstad, Department of Philosophy
Office: O’Dowd 346    Phone: x.2662    E-mail: rigstad@oakland.edu
Office hours: MWF 12:00 - 1:30 p.m.; or by appointment.

Course description:
This course examines the core values and principles at stake in current environmental crises. It explores the environmental implications of traditional and recent ethical philosophies, including utilitarianism, ecocentrism, pragmatism, and eco-feminism. In light of these competing ethical philosophies, students will engage issues of personal and political choice concerning, for example, sustainability, biodiversity, global climate change, the care of future generations, the treatment of non-human animals, pollution control, the use of wilderness, etc.

Course Prerequisites: RHT 160. 1 PHL course.

Administrative Policies:

• Students with disabilities who may require special considerations should make an appointment with campus Disability Support Services and bring their needs to the attention of the instructor at the start of the semester.
• The University Add/Drop policy gives students 14 calendar days from the start of classes to drop courses for a full refund of tuition. You are responsible for being aware of this deadline.
• Oakland University’s Academic Conduct Policy will be strictly followed: “All members of the academic community at Oakland University are expected to practice and uphold standards of academic integrity and honesty. Academic integrity means representing oneself and one’s work honestly. Misrepresentation is cheating since it means the student is claiming credit for ideas or work not actually his or her own and is thereby seeking a grade that is not actually earned. …” See http://www2.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/handbook/acr.cfm for further details. You are responsible for knowing and adhering to this policy.

Course requirements and grading policy:
• Five short papers, ranging from 3 to 6 pages in length each (see schedule of assignments below for length requirements), for a total of 20 pages of writing, double-spaced, 1 inch margins, in a conventional 12 point font (Courier, Palatino, New York, or Times New Roman). Graduate student papers should be 5 to 9 pages in length each, for a total of 32 pages of writing. Value = 90% of course grade.
• Attendance and participation in frank but courteous in-class and online discussions. Value = 10% of course grade.

Required resources:

Schedule of reading assignments:

W 1/4: Introduction


M 1/16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
W 1/18: Discussion. Paper #1 Due (3 pages).
Edward O. Wilson, The Future of Life, chapter 1: To the Ends of the Earth, pp. 3-21.


F 2/3: Discussion. **Paper #2 due (3 pages).**


W 2/15: TBA.


F 2/24: Discussion. **Paper #3 due (5 pages).**


W 3/1: Winter recess.


F 3/17: Discussion. **Paper #4 due (3 pages).**


