

**Phil. 224 Environmental Ethics**  
**Fall 2008, MWF 10:30-11:20**  
**Location: AL 208**

**Professor:** Gerry Callaghan

**Office:** HH 366

**Office Hours:** Monday 2:30-4:00, Wednesday 2:30-3:15, or by appointment.

**Communication:**

*Please note that email is the **preferred** method of communication if and when you cannot see me in person.*

**Email:** gcallagh@rogers.com

**Office phone:** x 35166

**Home phone:** 519 780-0058

**Course Description:** This course will undertake a philosophical examination of some of the more pressing practical and ethical questions that arise in light of humanity's increasingly problematic relationship to the natural environment. The following are some of the central questions that the course will address.

- How can traditional systems of philosophical ethics inform our moral attitudes toward the environment?
- Do animals have “rights”? More generally, does it make sense to think of non-human creatures (e.g., animals, plants, ecosystems) as having a moral standing comparable to that of humans?
- What are the prospects of some of the recent proposals for a viable environmental ethics—e.g., Deep Ecology, Eco-feminism?
- To what extent can the principles of “free-market” economy be relied upon to determine sound environmental policy? What constraints on market economy do existing environmental pressures recommend?
- What attitude should we take toward the potential conflict between property rights and environmental responsibility?
- How does population pressure bear on the issue of resource management?
- Is “sustainable development” a reasonable economic objective?
- What moral issues are at stake in some of the specific initiatives of environmentalists (e.g. wilderness preservation) and in particular forms of environmental activism (e.g., *ecotage*)?

**Text:** Donald Van DeVeer and Christine Pierce (eds.), *The Environmental Ethics and Policy Book*, Third Edition, Wadsworth, 2003.

**Requirements:**

*(Note: A Detailed schedule of readings and due dates for assignments and will be distributed in the first week of class.)*

First paper (Approx. 2-3 double-spaced pages)	15%
Mid-term test	20%
Second paper (Approx. 4 double-spaced pages)	25%
Final exam	40%

**Late Policy:** Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 5% per weekday late. There will be no exceptions without a documented excuse of sufficient weight (e.g. a medical emergency).

(See overleaf)

**Academic Integrity:** in order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4,  
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>

**Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline,  
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals,  
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>

**Note for students with disabilities:** The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.