

General Elective Courses (GE)

GE 7C Environmental Ethics

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice		
Environmental Ethics GE 7 C	4	3	1	Nil	None	None

Course Objectives

1. This course will explore wide-ranging environmental arguments, both theoretical and practical, shared from diverse perspectives by ethicists.
2. Students will, to begin with, be introduced to the myriad ways in which morality can be extended to the environment and some other important issues such as those concerning value.
3. The question 'Does the pursuit of environmentalism (vis-à-vis sustainability) necessarily negate a good life?' will be weighed.
4. The final unit will deliberate on how values that are implied in or derived from religions and traditional world-views are being used to address environmental concerns on the ground. This unit will thus illustrate the practical application of environmental ideas.

Course Learning Outcomes

- Students shall be able to identify the nature of environmental ethics as a discipline.
- The arguments employed by scholars to extend morality to the environment and challenges they face will become familiar.

- Students will develop the skill to critically evaluate scholarly views and build on their own arguments with sound logical reasoning.
- The students will be able to recognize the moral imperative behind many environmental decisions that humanity faces today.

Unit I: Introduction

(3 Weeks / 9 hours)

1. What is environmental ethics?
2. Anthropocentrism, biocentrism and ecocentrism

Jamieson, Dale, (2008) *Ethics and the Environment: An Introduction*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008. Pp. 1-25.

Elliot, Robert, (1993) "Environmental Ethics." In Peter Singer (ed.), *A Companion to Ethics*, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers Ltd. pp. 284-293.

Unit II: Ecofeminism

(4 Weeks / 12 hours)

1. Understanding Ecofeminism
2. Feminism and the Environment

Warren, Karren J. (2014) "The Power and the Promise of Ecological Feminism." In Michael Boylan (ed.), *Environmental Ethics*, Malden, USA: WileyBlackwell. pp 64-71

Merchant, Carolyn. (2014) "Ecofeminism and Feminist Theory," In Michael Boylan (ed.), *Environmental Ethics*, Malden, USA: Wiley Blackwell. pp 59-63.

Unit III: Sustainability

(4 Weeks / 12 hours)

1. What is sustainability?
2. Sustainability and the good life

Hourdequin, Marion (2015) *Environmental Ethics: From Theory to Practice*, London: Bloomsbury. pp. 131-141

Milbrath, Lester W. (2002) "Redefining the Good life in a Sustainable Society", In David Schmidtz and Elizabeth Willott (eds.) *Environmental Ethics: What Really Matters, What Really Works*, New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp 199-205

Unit IV: Application (4 Weeks / 12 hours)

1. Practicing traditional and religious environmental ethics: some examples
2. Indian Perspectives on Deep Ecology

Essential Readings

Callicott, J Baird. (1994) *Earth's Insights: A Multicultural Survey of Ecological Ethics from the Mediterranean Basin to the Australian Outback*, Berkeley: University of California Press. pp 211-234.

Chapple, Christopher Key. (2001). "Hinduism and Deep Ecology", In David Landis Barnhill and Roger S. Gottlieb(eds.), *Deep Ecology and World Religions: New Essays on Sacred Ground*. State University of New York Press, pp 59-76.

Or

Khaleel, F., & Shobha, K. (2021). "Ontological Authority of Sustainability in Hindu Traditions: The Art of Planetary Maintenance." In *Foundations of a Sustainable Economy* Routledge. pp. 96-104.

Further Readings

Nelson, Michael Paul, 2002, "Introduction to Environmental Ethics," *Ethics for a Small Planet: A Communications Handbook on the Ethical and Theological Reasons for Protecting Biodiversity*, Madison, WI: The Biodiversity Project, January 2002. pp.41-47

McShane, Katie. (2009) "Environmental Ethics: An Overview." *Philosophy Compass* 4, no. 3: 407-420.

Goralnik, L. and M.P. Nelson, (2012) 'Anthropocentrism' in *Encyclopaedia of Applied Ethics* (Second Edition). pp 145-155. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-373932-2.00349-5>

Rolston, Holmes III. (2003) "Environmental Ethics" in Nicholas Bunnin and E. P. Tsui-James (eds.). *The Blackwell Companion to Philosophy*, Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing.

Curren, Randall, (2014) "Defining Sustainability Ethics," In Michael Boylan (ed.) *Environmental Ethics*, Malden, USA: Wiley Blackwell. pp 331-345.

Plumwood, Val, (1993) *Feminism and the Mastery of Nature*, London and New York: Routledge. Chapter 1

Hourdequin, Marion (2015) *Environmental Ethics: From Theory to Practice*, Bloomsbury, London, 88-100

Shiva, Vandana and J. Bandyopadhyay, (1986), "The Evolution, Structure, and Impact of the Chipko Movement", *Mountain Research and Development*, Vol. 6, No. 2. pp. 133-142. URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3673267>

Ariyaratne, A. T. and Joanna Macy, (1994) "The Island of the Temple and the Tank," In Martine Batchelor and Kerry Brown (eds.) *Buddhism and Ecology*, Delhi: Motilal Banarsi Dass Publishers. pp. 78-86

Keywords:

ethics, environment, ecology, religion, feminism, anthropocentrism, biocentrism, ecocentrism, animals, sustainability, responsibility, value, duties, nature.