

**Forestry and Natural Resource Ethics: FOR 240  
Spring 2014**

**Course Syllabus**

**Instructor:**

Dr. G. Andrew Stainback  
Office: T.P. Cooper Building 202  
Email: gdrewst02@uky.edu  
Telephone: 859-257-1770 (Office) or 518-335-0462 (Cell)  
Office hours: By appointment (see below)

**Course Description:**

This course will explore the key ethical concepts relating to conservation, preservation, deep ecology, the land ethic, spiritualism/religion, and multiple value systems as they relate to current issues in the environment, natural resources, and forestry. Natural resource professional associations' codes of ethics will also be explored.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Introduce the student to ethical concepts as they apply to human-environment interactions.
2. Enable the students to critically assess the ethical concepts behind current environmental/natural resource dilemmas
3. Enable the student to apply natural resource professional codes of ethics such as the *Society of American Foresters' Code of Ethics*
4. Improve the student's critical thinking skills.

**Textbooks:**

1. Desjardins, J. R. (2013). *Environmental Ethics* (5th ed.). Boston, MA: Wadsworth. (ISBN: 978-1-133-04997-5)
2. Other readings will be provided to the student

**Assignments and Grades:**

Classes will primarily consist of short lectures, class discussions, and class exercises centered around course readings. Readings will be assigned in advance during class. There will be three tests given. Each test will consist of short answer and essay questions. For most weeks there will be one lecture lead by a small group of students. Topics and dates for these lectures will be given in class. Finally students will be required to write one 2-4 page paper answering several discussion questions. The questions will be given to students in class.

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Three Tests – 20% each  
Leading Class Discussion - 15% each  
Discussion Paper - 15%  
Class Participation – 10%

Grading Scale: A=90%-100%; B=80%-89%; C=70%-79%; D=60%-69%; E=0%-59%

**Class Attendance:**

There will be valuable content in class discussions that cannot be totally captured on a test or other assignment. Therefore you are expected to attend all classes. You are responsible for all material presented, handouts, announcements, and changes in the syllabus whether you are in class or not. In addition you are required to make-up all class exercises that you miss. Your first two absences will be automatically excused. For any absence beyond the first two there will be a 5% reduction in your course grade unless it is excused. To have an absence excused you must meet with me outside of class (within one week of your return), present a valid reason for your absence, and turn in a make-up assignment. Valid reasons for absence include serious illness of you or an immediate family member, death in the family, official university trip, major religious holidays, or other similar circumstances. The make-up assignment will be given to you during your meeting. You can schedule a meeting with me online (see below). A make-up test or make-up assignment for leading a class discussion will be allowed only after you present me with a valid excuse in writing before the test or a valid written medical excuse explaining your illness or that of an immediate family member. I reserve the right to require additional verification before any make-up work is allowed. If you come to class late it will be treated as an absence.

**Course Website:**

There is a website associated with this course. On this website you will have access to the assigned readings outside of the textbook, links to submit your assignments, an online calendar to book appointments with me, and other resources. You can access this website through Blackboard or directly (<http://for240.weebly.com/>). The password for the site is ukstudent240.

**Office Hours:**

Interacting with faculty outside of class and getting personalized assistance is an important part of your education. Therefore you are strongly encouraged to meet with me outside of regular class time to discuss your coursework, get career or academic advice, or to discuss other topics of interest. My availability to meet with students is generally very flexible and accommodating. To make meeting with me as easy as possible you will have access to an online calendar through the course website where you can schedule meeting times convenient for you.

**Academic Honesty:**

All class work is expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism will result in a course grade of E. If you have any doubts concerning whether your work conforms to these standards please ask me.

**Classroom Etiquette:**

You are expected to behave in a professional and respectful manner during all class activities. This includes coming to class on time, refraining from the use of electronic devices during class and not disrupting the class in any other manner. Ethics is an inherently controversial subject. Discussion and debate is strongly encouraged to facilitate learning and development of critical thinking skills. However you are expected to be civil and respectful to me and your fellow students during all class discussions. Failure to adhere to any of the above requirements can result in dismissal from class or being dropped from the course.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities should contact the Disability Resource Center to arrange for appropriate accommodations.

Website: <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/DisabilityResourceCenter/contact.html>

Telephone: (859) 257-2754

**Course Content:**

- I. Science, Politics, and Ethics
- II. Ethical Theories and the Environment
- III. Ethics and Economics
- IV. Sustainability
- V. Responsibilities to the Natural World
- VI. Biocentric Ethics
- VII. Wilderness and Ecology
- VIII. The Land Ethic
- IX. Radical Environmental Philosophy
- X. Environmental Justice and Social Ecology
- XI. Pluralism, Pragmatism, and Sustainability
- XII. Natural Resource Professional Codes of Ethics
- XIII. Other topics as time permits

**Both the content and structure of the class may be modified as the need arises.**