1-10 Introduction: get acquainted; brief overview

1-15 King Day Teach-in on housing and social justice (class meets in Hansen Student Center)

PART 1: DILEMMAS OF RIVAL ETHICAL CONCEPTIONS

A: Should non-human creatures and things matter ethically?

1-17 Sentience as a criterion of moral considerability
   Singer, “All Animals are Equal,” 26-40 in Environmental Philosophy

1-22 The land ethic and holism
   Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, 237-264

1-24 The land ethic as holism

1-29 Holism and sentience—do they fit together?

THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

1-31 class debate: is sentience or holism the better criterion?
   Callicott, “Holistic Environmental Ethics and the Problem of Ecofacism,” 111-125 in Environmental Philosophy

2-2 Micro-essay #1 due in CLA 251 4PM

B. The American diet as an ethical case study

2-5 Behind the curtains: how the standard American diet is produced
   Singer and Mason, The Ethics of What We Eat, 3-80

2-7 Is conscientious omni-locavorism the answer?
   Singer and Mason, The Ethics of What We Eat, 83-183

2-12 The vegan option
   Singer and Mason, The Ethics of What We Eat, 187-240
   THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

2-14 class debate: can meat eating be justified as an environmentally ethical practice?
   Singer and Mason, The Ethics of What We Eat, 241-296
   Fearnley-Whittingstall, The River Cottage Cookbook, 356-371

2-16 Micro-essay #2 due in CLA 251 4PM

C. A meta-ethical case study: is the holist use of sentiment coherent?

2-19 Sentiment as a route to value
   Callicott, In Defense of the Land Ethic, 129-155
   Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, forward
   Kasperbauer, “Naturalizing Sentimentalism for Environmental Ethics,” 221-237 in Environmental Ethics
2-21 **class debate: does sentimentalism make intrinsic value a coherent concept?**

2-23 **Micro-essay #3 due in CLA 251 4PM**

**PART 2: DILEMMAS IN APPLIED ETHICS**

**A: The response to global warming**

2-26 Nature is not fixed: Extinction, uniformitarianism, and catastrophism
Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction*, 23-91

2-28 Welcome to the Anthropocene
Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction*, 1-22; 92-172

3-5 With great power comes great responsibility
Kolbert, *The Sixth Extinction*, 193-269
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

3-7 **class debate: why preserve natural variety?**
Norton, *Why Preserve Natural Variety?*, 3-22; 214-239
Rolston, “Duties to Endangered Species,” 60-75

3-8 **Micro-essay #4 due in CLA 251 4PM**

3-9/3-18 SPRING BREAK

**B: The genetically modified organism (GMO) debate**

3-19 The science of genetic engineering
Ronald and Adamchak, *Tomorrow’s Table*, 3-12; 28-39

3-21 How genetic engineering works and is regulated
Ronald and Adamchak, *Tomorrow’s Table*, 43-84

3-26 American pros and European cons
Ronald and Adamchak, *Tomorrow’s Table*, 84-102
Shurman and Munro, *Fighting for the Future of Food*, 83-116
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

3-28 **class debate: should ethical environmentalists support GMOs?**
Ronald and Adamchak, *Tomorrow’s Table*, 105-167
Comstock, *Vexing Nature?*, 175-207; 225-261

3-30 **Micro-essay #5 due in CLA by 4PM**

**C: Agriculture and the sustainability debate**

4-2 Agriculture and environmental ethics
Thompson, *The Spirit of the Soil*, 1-42

4-4 Producerism as an environmental ethic
Thompson, *The Spirit of the Soil*, 43-92
4-4 SPECIAL CLASS TRIP: EPIHANY FARM, MCLEAN COUNTY ILLINOIS
Meet in front of the Hansen Center at 3:30 PM. Return to Hansen 5:30 PM.

4-9 Stewardship as an environmental ethic
Thompson, *The Spirit of the Soil*, 93-138

4-11 Is holism the better approach?
Thompson, *The Spirit of the Soil*, 139-164
THREE QUESTIONS CLASS

4-16 *class debate: is sustainable agriculture a coherent concept?*
Thompson, *The Spirit of the Soil*, 165-215

4-18 Micro-essay #6 due in CLA by 4PM

4-23 SPECIAL CLASS TRIP TO THE CHAMPAIGN COUNTY ILLINOIS MICRO-GRID PROJECT

4-27 FINAL EXAM 10:15-12:15

**Course reading**
The following required books will be available at the IWU Bookstore.


The following articles or selections from books will be kept on our class Moodle page.

Holmes Rolston, “Duties to Endangered Species,” in *Environmental Ethics*
Rachel Schurman and William A. Munro, *Fight for the Future of Food: Activists Versus Agribusiness in the Struggle over Biotechnology* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2010)
Peter Singer, “All Animals are Equal,” in *Environmental Philosophy*

**Social contract**
Students are required to complete six micro-essays (750-950 words each). Help conserve paper by single-spacing your essay and printing on both sides of a sheet of paper. All assignments and the final exam will be posted on my homepage.
Students can revise essays to improve their grade, but they must: (1) visit me during office hours with the graded paper to discuss how to improve it; (2) visit me again with the new draft (which may need further revision); (3) make sure the revised version of the paper is turned in with the original and all other drafts; and (4) do all this by the last day of class (April 16). Grades on revised papers will be averaged with the original grade to create a final composite grade.

60% micro-essays (10% each)
25% final exam
15% class participation (including five three questions classes and six class debates)

No student who misses as many as eight class sessions, for whatever reasons, shall receive a passing grade.

*Illinois Wesleyan University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on a disability (including mental health and chronic or temporary medical conditions), it is your responsibility to register with Disability Services. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and accommodations cannot be provided until I receive an email from Disability Services. Once the email is sent, please make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations confidentially so they may be implemented in a timely fashion. For more information contact Disability Services by visiting 110 Holmes Hall, calling 309-556-3231, or emailing cshipley@iwu.edu.*

**Office hours**
Jim Simeone
CLA 251; 556-3126
M 3:30-4:30; TH 4-5; W 9-11 or by appt.

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