

Effective Implementation date: Spring 2018, 201830

Required Syllabus Information – all must be included in the course syllabus

**Course Prefix and Number:** PHI218

**Course Title:** Environmental Ethics – AH3

**Course Credits:** 3

**Course Description:** Analyzes theories of the value of the natural world. Topics may include the relation between scientific and moral principles; theories of the moral worth of persons, animals, plants, and other natural objects; historical, religious, and cultural influences on conceptions of nature; alternative accounts of human relationships and responsibilities to nature; and the connection between moral and political values and economic policies. This is a statewide Guaranteed Transfer course in the GT-AH3 category.

**Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways Course Statement:**

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education has approved PHI218 for inclusion in the Guaranteed Transfer (GT) Pathways program in the GT-AH3 category. For transferring students, successful completion with a minimum C– grade guarantees transfer and application of credit in this GT Pathways category. For more information on the GT Pathways program, go to <https://highered.colorado.gov/academics/transfers/gtpathways/curriculum.html>.

**GT-AH3: WAYS OF THINKING CONTENT CRITERIA**

Students should be able to:

Respond analytically and critically to ways of thinking, by addressing one or more of the following:

- a. Logic
- b. Ethics
- c. The different questions dealt with by leading philosophers and/or theologians and their positions on those questions

**GT-AH3 COMPETENCY & STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**Competency: Critical Thinking:**

Students should be able to:

- 1. Explain an Issue**
  - a. Use information to describe a problem or issue and/or articulate a question related to the topic.
- 2. Utilize Context**
  - a. Evaluate the relevance of context when presenting a position.
  - b. Identify assumptions.
  - c. Analyze one's own and others' assumptions.
- 5. Understand Implications and Make Conclusions**
  - a. Establish a conclusion that is tied to the range of information presented.
  - b. Reflect on implications and consequences of stated conclusion.

## **REQUIRED COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- I. Explain major ethical concepts and the problems/issues in clarifying them that are used to comprehend and express moral or ethical problems.
- II. Analyze major ethical theories.
- III. Explain various cultural, philosophical and religious perspectives on the environment.
- IV. Analyze the connections between science and technology as they relate to environmental ethics.
- V. Analyze various types of environmental activism from an ethical perspective.
- VI. Analyze the implications and consequences from the conclusions of moral theories within different contexts of environmental ethics.
- VII. Demonstrate logical thinking through writing and other forms of assessment.

## **REQUIRED TOPICAL OUTLINE**

- I. Definitions
  - a. Ethics
  - b. Environment
  - c. Nature
- II. The historical progression from anthropocentrism to deep ecology
- III. Brief introduction to major ethical theories, both Western and non-Western
- IV. Religion, science, technology, and the environment
  - a. History
  - b. Issues
- V. Major environmental philosophies
  - a. Eco-Feminism
  - b. Social Ecology
  - c. The Land Ethic
  - d. Ecocentric Ethics
  - e. Biocentric Ethics
- VI. Major environmental issues
- VIII. Application of ethical theories to specific environmental issues
- VII. Ethical evaluation of various types of environmental activism