

01ZZ104 Graduate General Education

Introduction to Environmental Ethics

One credit, Fall Semester ABC, Natural Science Building

BBS Site: <http://6524.teacup.com/matsuiethics/bbs>

Applied Environmental Ethics Study Group Home Page: www.envr.tsukuba.ac.jp/~envvethic/

Instructors

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<Coordinator>

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“The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.” — Isaac Asimov

“The climate movement should be seen in a context of the great moral causes that have transformed and improved the outlook of humanity.” — Al Gore

I. Outline

This course helps you to place yourself within a large environmental context. It provides a broad overview of ethical issues that are pertinent to human-nature relationships. Our topics include the history of environmental ethics; international environmental law; intellectual property rights and the ethics for biological resources; household environmental ethics, animal rights and welfare; and the conservation of socio-ecological production. These wide-ranging topics provide contexts for you to discuss the ethical, legal, and social implications of environmental problems, and, in turn, give us better coordinated directions for achieving environmental conservation and sustainability. Throughout this course, you are encouraged to develop and refine your own original and innovative insights on how humans can better coordinate their efforts to deal with many regional and global environmental issues today and tomorrow.

II. Evaluation

Attendance	20%
Essay assignment	50%
Class contribution	30%

III. Assignments (To be handed in to a report box in front of Room #A209)

Where to submit : Natural Science Bld. A209, report submission box


Deadline : December 19 (Tuesday), 2017: 5pm

Where to pick up : Natural Science Bld. A209 report return box (late January 2018)

For this course, you will submit one written assignment in English. The topic of your paper can be chosen from the lecture contents of this course. If you have questions about this writing assignment, please feel free to ask the coordinator of this course. Although you are strongly advised to meet the deadlines, if you require extension due to some unavoidable reason, please contact the coordinator ASAP. In considering the extension, you may be asked to submit a proper document.

You may use the following academic style guides for detailed specifications for writing:

- *Chicago Manual of Style*
- MLA (Modern Language Association): http://www.mla.org/style_faq
- APA (American Psychological Association): <http://www.apastyle.org/elecref.html>
- Council of Science Editors (CSE)'s *Scientific Styles and Format*.

 *** Warning on Plagiarism:** If one takes the words, ideas, or research of another person(s) without proper citation as if these were his or her own, such a person is considered to have committed the act of plagiarism. **Plagiarism is intellectual theft and a clear violation of the code of ethics and behavior, which often result into a severe penalty.** Some web sites (e.g., Wikipedia) often lure students to copy a large portion of its web pages without citation. Please be aware such a work cannot be considered worth being part of admitting a credit in this course.

I. In-Class Contribution

This course seeks to provide “a safe learning environment,” in which all students are welcome to express their opinions without worrying about making mistakes. You are expected to share your opinion with other students and learn from each other *with due respect*. Keeping this in mind as the basic underlying principle of this course, I occasionally ask you to express or write your opinion in progress about some issues that are salient in environmental ethics. This course has its own Bulletin Board System (BBS) for all of us to exchange ideas. The web address for this site is: <http://6524.teacup.com/matsuiethics/bbs>.

V. Recommended Readings

-Andrew Light and Holmes Roston III, eds., *Environmental Ethics: An Anthology*. Blackwell Publishing, 2003.

-Donald VanDe Veer and Christine Pierce, eds., *The Environmental Ethics & Policy Book*. Thomson Wordsworth, 2003.

VI. Course Contents & Schedule (may slightly change)

<November 27>

9:00-9:30 **Course Orientation**
—By Matsui

9:30-12:00 **History of the Environmental Ethics**
—by Matsui

<<Lunch Break>>

13:15-16:45 **Traditional Knowledge and Environmental Sustainability**
—By Matsui

16:50-17:10 **Discussion**

<November 28>

9:00-10:40 **Household Environmental Ethics**
—by Matsui

10:55-12:30 **Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Ethics**
--by Matsui

<<Lunch Break>>

13:30-15:00 **Water Ethics: Indiginizing rights to Water**

15:30-16:00 **Discussion**