NRM F303X, Environmental Ethics and Actions

Course Syllabus, Spring Semester 2022

Section 003 9:45-11:15 AM Tuesdays & Thursdays, Zoom Link Section 004 2:00-3:30 PM Tuesdays & Thursdays, Zoom Link Section 002 2:00-3:30 PM Tuesdays & Thursdays, O’Neill 201

David Valentine, Instructor Phone: 474-7614 Professor of Forest Soils Email: dvalentine@alaska.edu 309 O’Neill Building

Zoom info: You will need to present your alaska.edu credentials in order to attend Zoom classes. Classes will be recorded and made available in Canvas for your review, if needed.

Office Hours: To stem the spread of COVID-19, I am only available to meet virtually (Zoom, telephone, etc.). Please use my contact information to schedule time with me.

Textbook: Bassham, Gregory. 2020. Environmental Ethics: The Central Issues. Hacket, Indianapolis/Cambridge. 231 p.

Additional readings will be posted on the course Canvas site.

NRM 303 is an upper division class . While you will be expected to learn some facts and ideas, the emphasis will be on exploring, thinking, and reflection based on assigned readings. These will be developed through class discussions in which active student participation is expected.

Email : I occasionally may need to contact you between class periods via email. If you prefer to use an email address other than your UA address, you will need to set up email forwarding.

Description: Exploration of the history of modern Western views of the relationship between people and nature, alternative foundations for an environmental ethic (utilitarianism, spiritual activity, rights-based and respect-based ethics) and practices of such ethics in business, profession and general lifestyle today.

Course goals : Through exploration of the breadth of environmental ethics as a discipline and its application to environmental issues, students will learn:

● to understand, identify, and be able to work with the three broad approaches to ethical

analysis (ethics of consequence, principle, purpose)

● to analyze arguments for their strengths and weaknesses based on the quality of

information and reasoning

● to explore the relationship between ethical theory and ethical action:

as a basis for individual behavior, public policy and professional codes for environmental and resource managers.

control, such as sickness, has not been able to complete the course during the regular semester. Negligence or indifference are not acceptable reasons for an “I” grade.”

Class Participation accounts for ~1/6 of your grade, reflecting the importance I place on both your presence in class and your engagement with the topics. Absences occasionally are necessary, so you may miss up to two class sessions without penalty. Each additional absence, for whatever reason, will incur a ~4 point penalty from your attendance grade. Please sign in for every class you attend.

Class sessions are primarily an opportunity to discuss the assigned readings in a thoughtful, informed manner. It is only through such dialogue that ideas can be fruitfully explored. The terms "informed" and "thoughtful" are emphasized. To this end, it will be imperative that

students read and, equally important, ponder the assigned reading material prior to each class. To guide (coerce) you to do this, I will employ two strategies. First, I will at times randomly call
on students to offer their thoughts on or analysis of the assigned readings. Beginning in about the 3

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d week, I will ask students to introduce and summarize each of the readings for class in

order to get discussion going. Together with your general engagement in class discussions, these will comprise the engagement quality of your class participation grade.

Example: If you miss four classes and I evaluate the quality of your engagement in class as a mid “B”, your class participation grade would be (100 – 8) * 85% = 78/100 points.

I reserve the right to exercise judgment in final grading in light of individual student circumstances and notable changes in progress and performance. Students will be penalized for