



PHIL*3350 Selected Topics in Philosophy

Fall 2021

Section(s): C01

Department of Philosophy

Credit Weight: 0.50

Version 1.00 - September 02, 2021

1 Course Details

1.1 Calendar Description

The topics for this course will vary from one offering to the next, and will deal with material, such as Philosophy of History, Philosophy of Social Science and advanced Philosophy of Religion generally arising from the instructor's current research interests. This course gives students a chance to explore topics and texts not usually covered in other courses. Students are encouraged to consult the departmental website for course content and availability.

Pre-Requisites: 1.50 credits in Philosophy or 7.50 credits

1.2 Course Description

This course will allow students to engage with selections from Marxist and Feminist thinkers on topics of human nature, the natural world, and the often troubled intersection thereof. Specifically, this course will explore how our conceptions of human nature naturalize injustices and exploitation, both within human communities and in our relationships with the non-human world.

The course will involve writing brief, weekly reflections on writings from thinkers such as Carolyn Merchant, Val Plumwood, Kohei Saito, and Peter Kropotkin, and these will inform the direction of the Wednesday seminar meetings. As this is also a course in normative political philosophy that encourages students to bring the philosophy into a practical or lived cultural context, the two essay assignments will involve engaging through the theory presented with both a news article and a film (or films).

Depending on the material, the weekly expected readings will cover between 20 to 40 pages.

1.3 Timetable

Mondays 4:00 pm - 5:20 pm

- Virtual Lecture Sessions on Teams for Weekly Course Readings
- Teams Channel: PHIL 3350 Lecture Group

Wednesdays 4:00 pm - 5:20 pm

- On Campus Seminar Sessions
- Room: MINS 103

1.4 Final Exam

There will be no final examination in this course.

2 Instructional Support

2.1 Instructional Support Team

Instructor:	Gordon Trenbeth
Email:	gtrenbet@uoguelph.ca
Office:	Mackinnon 362
Office Hours:	Wednesdays 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

3 Learning Resources

3.1 Required Resources

Karl Marx – Selected Writings ISBN 978-0-87220-218-4 (Textbook)

Carolyn Merchant - The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution

ISBN 978-0-06250-595-8 (Textbook)

Kohei Saito - Karl Marx's Ecosocialism ISBN 978-1-5836764-0-0 (Textbook)

Readings on Ares as Specified in Course Outline (Website)

<https://ares.lib.uoguelph.ca/ares/>

4 Learning Outcomes

4.1 Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. By the end of this course, students should be able to:
 1. Engage more critically with topics related to natural or naturalized philosophy
 2. Identify where arguments related to environmental ethics and climate crisis solutions rely on underlying but often unacknowledged normative and descriptive conceptions of human nature and natural order, especially those embedded and sometimes implicit in cultural artifacts (such as film and news media)
 3. Demonstrate an understanding of some core feminist and Marxist arguments on topics relevant to outcomes 1 and 2
 4. Identify, articulate, and discuss, in both an essay and academic seminar context, important features of political philosophy
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5 Teaching and Learning Activities

5.1 Lecture

Mon, Sep 13, 4:00 PM - 5:20 PM

Topics: Lecture 1

References: Weekly Readings:

Raymond Williams - Chapter 3 (pg 67-103)

Teams Channel: PHIL 3350 Lecture Group

Mon, Sep 20, 4:00 PM

Topics: Lecture 2

References: Weekly Readings:

Peter Kropotkin: Mutual Aid

Chapters 7 + 8 and Conclusion

Teams Channel: PHIL 3350 Lecture Group

Mon, Sep 27, 4:00 PM

Topics: Lecture 3

References: Weekly Readings:

Carolyn Merchant: The Death of Nature

Intro + Chapter 1

Teams Channel: PHIL 3350 Lecture Group

Mon, Oct 4, 4:00 PM

Topics: Lecture 4

References: Weekly Readings:

Carolyn Merchant: The Death of Nature

Chapters 7+8

Teams Channel: PHIL 3350 Lecture Group

Mon, Oct 11

Topics: **Lecture Cancelled for Thanksgiving**

Mon, Oct 18, 4:00 PM

Topics: Lecture 5

References: Weekly Readings:

Kohei Saito: Marx's Ecosocialism

Intro and Chapter 1

Teams Channel: PHIL 3350 Lecture Group

Mon, Oct 25, 4:00 PM

Topics: Lecture 6

References: Weekly Readings:

Kohei Saito: Marx's Ecosocialism

Chapter 2

Teams Channel: PHIL 3350 Lecture Group

Mon, Nov 1, 4:00 PM

Topics: Lecture 7:

Final Essay Assignment Distributed

References: Weekly Readings:

Kohei Saito: Marx's Ecosocialism

Chapter 3

Teams Channel: PHIL 3350 Lecture Group

Mon, Nov 8, 4:00 PM

Topics: Lecture 8

References: Weekly Readings:

1. Ted Benton - *Humanism = Speciesism? Marx on Humans and Animals*
2. Dawn Keetley - *Frozen, The Grey, and the Possibilities of Posthumanist Horror*

Teams Channel: PHIL 3350 Lecture Group

Mon, Nov 15, 4:00 PM

Topics: Lecture 9

References: Weekly Readings:

Val Plumwood: Environmental Culture

Introduction and Chapter 1

Teams Channel: PHIL 3350 Lecture Group

Mon, Nov 22, 4:00 PM

Topics: Lecture 10

References: Weekly Readings:

Val Plumwood: Environmental Thinking

Chapters 7+9

Teams Channel: PHIL 3350 Lecture Group

Mon, Nov 29, 4:00 PM

Topics: Lecture 11

References:

Weekly Readings:

Val Plumwood: Environmental Culture

Chapter 2

Teams Channel: PHIL 3350 Lecture Group

Fri, Dec 3, 4:00 PM

Topics:

Lecture 12: Makeup for October 11th

Final Essays Due

References:

Weekly Readings:

Val Plumwood: Environmental Culture

Conclusion

Teams Channel: PHIL 3350 Lecture Group

5.2 Seminar

Wed, Sep 15, 4:00 PM

Topics:

Seminar 1:

Reflection 1 Due

Room: MINS 103

Wed, Sep 22, 4:00 PM

Topics:

Seminar 2:

Reflection 2 Due

Room: MINS 103

Wed, Sep 29, 4:00 PM

Topics:

Seminar 3:

Reflection 3 Due

Room: MINS 103

Wed, Oct 6, 4:00 PM

Topics:

Seminar 4:

Reflection 4 Due

Room: MINS 103

Wed, Oct 13, 4:00 PM

Topics:

Seminar 5:

Essay 1 Due

References:

Weekly Readings:

Karl Marx: Selected Readings

Pages 55-79 and Pages 230-235

Room: MINS 103

Wed, Oct 20, 4:00 PM

Topics:

Seminar 6:

Reflection 5 Due

Room: MINS 103

Wed, Oct 27, 4:00 PM

Topics:

Seminar 7:

Reflection 6 Due

Room: MINS 103

Wed, Nov 3, 4:00 PM

Topics:

Seminar 8:

Reflection 7 Due

Room: MINS 103

Wed, Nov 10, 4:00 PM

Topics:

Seminar 9

Reflection 8 Due

Room: MINS 103

Wed, Nov 17, 4:00 PM

Topics:

Seminar 10:

Introduction Assignment Due

Room: MINS 103

Wed, Nov 24, 4:00 PM

Topics:

Seminar 11:

Reflection 9 Due

Room: MINS 103

Wed, Dec 1, 4:00 PM

Topics:

Seminar 12

Reflection 10 Due

Room: MINS 103

6 Assessments

6.1 Marking Schemes & Distributions

- Weekly reflection papers – 20%
 - First essay – 30 % Due October 13th
 - Final essay outline – 10% Due November 17th
 - Final essay – 40% Due December 3 (last day of classes)
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7 University Statements

7.1 Email Communication

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

7.2 When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. The grounds for Academic Consideration are detailed in the Undergraduate and Graduate Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Consideration and Appeals

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-ac.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Grounds for Academic Consideration

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Academic Consideration, Appeals and Petitions

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/index.shtml>

7.3 Drop Date

Students will have until the last day of classes to drop courses without academic penalty. The deadline to drop two-semester courses will be the last day of classes in the second semester. This applies to all students (undergraduate, graduate and diploma) except for Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Associate Diploma in Veterinary Technology (conventional and alternative delivery) students. The regulations and procedures for course registration are available in their respective Academic Calendars.

Undergraduate Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Registration Changes

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/genreg-reg-regchg.shtml>

Associate Diploma Calendar - Dropping Courses

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/diploma/current/c08/c08-drop.shtml>

7.4 Copies of Out-of-class Assignments

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

7.5 Accessibility

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs. To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS). Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required; however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to book their exams at least 7 days in advance and not later than the 40th Class Day.

For Guelph students, information can be found on the SAS website

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/sas>

For Ridgetown students, information can be found on the Ridgetown SAS website

<https://www.ridgetownc.com/services/accessibilityservices.cfm>

7.6 Academic Integrity

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity, and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community—faculty, staff, and students—to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring. University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff, and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that encourages academic integrity. Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before

submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

Undergraduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/undergraduate/current/c08/c08-amisconduct.shtml>

Graduate Calendar - Academic Misconduct

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/graduate/current/genreg/index.shtml>

7.7 Recording of Materials

Presentations that are made in relation to course work - including lectures - cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a student, or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

7.8 Resources

The Academic Calendars are the source of information about the University of Guelph's procedures, policies, and regulations that apply to undergraduate, graduate, and diploma programs.

Academic Calendars

<https://www.uoguelph.ca/academics/calendars>

7.9 Disclaimer

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via CourseLink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

7.10 Illness

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g.. final exam or major assignment).

7.11 Covid-19 Safety Protocols

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campus/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>
- <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campus/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.
