



## COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Kodas
Environmental ethics	

Annotation
This course is dedicated to philosophical consideration of diverse ethical theories and perspectives on the human-environment relation, and application of these theories to global and everyday moral issues such as animal rights, preservation of wilderness and species, air and water pollution, climate change, food ethics, ecological citizenship, etc.

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
<b>Coordinator:</b> dr. Renata Bikauskaitė	Faculty of Philosophy
<b>Other(s):</b>	

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
First	General university studies

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Blended learning	Spring and fall semesters	English

Requisites	
<b>Co-requisites (if relevant):</b> English level B2	<b>Additional requirements (if any):</b>

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	130	48	82

Purpose of the course unit (module)
The purpose of this course unit is to help students to think carefully and systematically about a range of ethical and philosophical issues involving the natural environment and human-nature relationship.

Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Students will be able to identify and apply relevant ethical concepts to the moral questions concerning environment.	Lecturing, class discussions, assignments at Virtual Learning Environment (VME), video and literature analysis, analysis of global environmental issues, group discussion	Active participation in the class analyzing assigned readings. Assignments at the Virtual Learning Environment. Presentation on the practical environmental topic. Exam (essay)
Students will be able to understand contemporary perspectives and debates on the relation between humans and environment.	Lecturing, class discussions, assignments at Virtual Learning Environment (VMA), video and literature analysis, analysis of global environmental issues, group discussion	Active participation in the class analyzing assigned readings. Assignments at the Virtual Learning Environment. Presentation on the practical environmental topic. Exam (essay)

Students will enhance skills of critical reading and thinking by collecting and analyzing information, evaluating and comparing different conceptions and personal practices related to environmental issues.	Presentations, class discussions, assignments at Virtual Learning Environment (VMA), video and literature analysis, analysis of global environmental issues, discussion at VMA, self-reflection	Active participation in the class analyzing assigned readings. Assignments at the Virtual Learning Environment. Presentation on the practical environmental topic. Exam (essay)
Students will be able to understand and evaluate one's own concrete interaction to their surrounding world, especially in reference to the concepts of environmental ethics.	Class discussions, literature analysis, presentation, self-reflection	Active participation in the class analyzing assigned readings. Assignments at the Virtual Learning Environment. Presentation on the practical environmental topic. Exam (essay)
Students will be able to invoke different ethical conceptions tackling everyday environmental issues.	Class discussions, literature analysis, presentation, self-reflection	Active participation in the class analyzing assigned readings. Assignments at the Virtual Learning Environment. Presentation on the practical environmental topic. Exam (essay)

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours								Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship/work placement	E-learning	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Assignments
1. Morality, ethics and moral philosophy. Basic ethical concepts. Mainstream moral theories and its applicability to environmental issues.	4		4				2	10	8	<b>Mandatory reading:</b> Desjardins „Environmental ethics“, 21-46 pp  <b>Assignment at the VLE:</b> Understanding and Applying Ethical Concepts (Deontology, utilitarianism, virtue ethics)
2. Environmental ethics: history and general overview.	2						2	4	6	<b>Assignment at VLE:</b> Understanding and Applying Ethical Concepts (various approaches) <b>Supplementary reading:</b> Andrew Kernohan „Environmental ethics“, 113-216 pp
3. Anthropocentric environmental ethics. Arguments for anthropocentrism.	2		2				2	6	6	<b>Mandatory reading:</b> John Nolt „Arguments for and against Obligations to Future Generations“,

Obligation to distant people and future generation. Indirect duties.									<a href="http://web.utk.edu/~nolt/courses/346/futurgen.htm">http://web.utk.edu/~nolt/courses/346/futurgen.htm</a> <b>Assignment at VLE:</b> Understanding and applying concepts (obligation to future generation) <b>Supplementary reading:</b> Intergenerational justice, <a href="https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/justice-intergenerational/">https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/justice-intergenerational/</a>	
4. Zoocentric environmental ethics. Arguments for sentientism. Animal rights. Animal welfare.	2		2				2	6	6	<b>Mandatory reading:</b> Tom Regan "The Case for Animal Rights" 179-189, Peter Singer "All Animals are Equal", 103-116 <b>Assignment at VLE:</b> Understanding arguments (animal welfare/rights)  <b>Supplementary reading:</b> The moral status of animal, <a href="https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/moral-animal/">https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/moral-animal/</a>
5. Biocentric environmental ethics. Instrumental and intrinsic value of nature. Reverence for life. Respect for nature	2						2	4	4	<b>Assignment at VLE:</b> Understanding arguments <b>Supplementary reading:</b> Andrew Kernohan Environmental ethics, 113-216 pp
6. Ecocentric environmental ethics. The Land ethics. Principles of Deep ecology. Critique of ecocentrism (ecofascism, misanthropy)	2		2					4	6	<b>Mandatory readings:</b> Arne Neas „The Basics of Deep Ecology“  <b>Supplementary reading:</b> Andrew Kernohan Environmental ethics, 113-216 pp
7. Ecofeminism: background and context. Relation between feminism and environmentalism. Care for nature.	2		2				2	6	6	<b>Assignment at VLE:</b> Understanding Arguments  <b>Mandatory reading:</b> Warren, "The Power and the Promise of Ecological Feminism" 125 - 146  <b>Supplementary reading:</b> Feminist ethics, <a href="https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-ethics/">https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-ethics/</a> , Feminist environmental philosophy, <a href="https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-environmental/">https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-environmental/</a>
8. Practical issues. Animal rights, preservation of wilderness and species, air and water pollution, climate change, food ethics, sustainability, ecological citizenship etc.	4		4					8	10	Group/individual presentations on chosen topic  <b>Supplementary reading:</b> Andrew Kernohan „Environmental ethics“, 113-216 pp „Encyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy“, eds. B. Callicot, R. Frodeman
									30	Exam (essay)
Total	20		16				12	48	82	

Assessment strategy	Weight, %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
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Active participation in the class analyzing assigned readings and presentation of chosen topic	40%	During semester	<p><b>Seminars (10 points – 20 %)</b></p> <p>10-9: The student is fully engaged and well prepared, having studied the assigned material and thought carefully about the materials' relation to issues raised in lecture. This student's ideas and questions are substantive (either constructive or critical); they stimulate class discussions. They listen and respond respectfully to other students' contributions.</p> <p>8-7: The student participates consistently in discussion. They are well prepared and contribute regularly by sharing thoughts and questions that show insight and a familiarity with the material. This student refers to the materials discussed in lecture and shows interest in other students' contributions.</p> <p>6-5: The student meets the basic requirements of participation. They are usually prepared and participate once in a while but not regularly. This student's contributions relate to the texts and the lectures and offer a few insightful ideas but do not help to build a coherent and productive discussion. Failure to fulfill satisfactorily the criteria for participation will result in a grade of 4 or below.</p> <p><b>Presentation. (10 points – 20 %)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Topic appropriately introduced, problem clearly stated, main arguments and its critique clearly delineated, conclusion made.</li> <li>2) Clear, not overcrowded slides, smooth transition from issue to issue.</li> <li>3) Ability to answer questions.</li> </ol> <p>Failure to fulfill satisfactorily the criteria of presentation will result in a grade of 4 or below.</p>
Assignments at VLE	30%	During semester	<p><b>Closed and open questions at the VLE. (10 points – 30 %)</b> The basic concepts, arguments, ideas, trends of environmental ethics are recognized, the core view-points stated and clearly articulated.</p> <p>Unclear, contradictory, uncomprehensive answers and obvious mistakes (60 %) will result in a grade of 4 or below.</p>
Exam (essay)	30%	At the end of the semester	<p><b>Type of examination is essay (1200 – 1500 words) (10 points – 30 %).</b></p> <p>It has a well-defined thesis and a logical organization. It shows good understanding of ethical conceptions and ideas, intellectual honesty and endeavor. It attempts to defend a defensible thesis and takes seriously objections to that thesis. The argument is carefully articulated and developed. Obvious difficulties are anticipated and answered, and gaps are closed. It has well informed sources.</p> <p>Failure to fulfill satisfactorily the criteria of essay will result in a grade of 4 or below.</p>

Author	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication; pages	Publishing house or internet site
<b>Required reading</b>				
J. R. Desjardins	2013	Environmental Ethics. An Introduction to Environmental Philosophy		Wadsworth Cengage Learning
J. Nolt		„Arguments for and against Obligations to Future Generations“,		<a href="http://web.utk.edu/~nolt/courses/346/futuregen.htm">http://web.utk.edu/~nolt/courses/346/futuregen.htm</a>
K. Warren	1990	<u>The power and the promise of ecological feminism</u>	Environmental ethics 12 (2):125-146	
T. Regan	1989	The Case for Animal Rights		<a href="https://animals.tudiesrepository.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&amp;context=acwp_awap">https://animals.tudiesrepository.org/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1003&amp;context=acwp_awap</a>
P. Singer	1974	All Animals Are Equal		<a href="https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/phil_ex/vol5/iss1/6/">https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/phil_ex/vol5/iss1/6/</a>
<b>Recommended reading</b>				
Eds. B. Callicot, R. Frodeman	2008	Eyclopedia of Environmental Ethics and Philosophy	1-2	Macmillan
P. Curry	2016	Ecological Ethics: An Introduction		Polity Press
A. Kernohan	2012	Environmental Ethics, An interactive Introduction		Broadview Press
		Intergenerational Justice		<a href="https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/justice-intergenerational/">https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/justice-intergenerational/</a>
		Feminist Ethics		<a href="https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-ethics/">https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-ethics/</a> ,
		Feminist Environmental Philosophy		<a href="https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-environmental/">https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/feminism-environmental/</a>
		The Moral Status of Animal		<a href="https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/moral-animal/">https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/moral-animal/</a>
A. Bartkiene, R. Bikauskaitė, D. Mincytė, M. P. Šaulauskas	2019	Rethinking Ecological Citizenship: the Politics and Practice of Care for the Environment		Vilnius University Press

Eds. S. M. Gardiner, A. Thompson	2017	The Oxford Handbook to Environmental Ethics		Oxford University Press
Eds. A. Light, H. Rolston	2003	Environmental Ethics: An Anthology		Oxford University Press
S. P. James	2015	Environmental Philosophy		Polity Press