



## I. Course and Instructor

Format: Canvas

### Instructor Information:

Name: Daniel Metz

Email: Canvas (class email);

Alternate email: [dmetz@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:dmetz@coloradomtn.edu)

Phone: 303-778-1548 (Home)

Office Hours: By email

### Course Information:

Course Title: Environmental Ethics

Course Code: PHI-218-DS22

Semester: Spring 2013

Meeting Times and Days: Web

Synonym Number: 71436

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: College-level reading

Class Location: Web

Start Date: 01/14/13

Refund Date: 01/30/13

End Date: 05/03/13

Withdraw Date: 04/07/13

**Orientation Note:** Please read the Start Here document in the Announcements Discussion on your first day of class.

### **Computer Access:**

Online courses require frequent computer use and access to the internet. It is highly recommended that students have a personal computer for use in online courses. If you need to use a computer at your local Colorado Mountain College location, you will be able to do so during open lab hours. Please check with your local site for times. Labs will not be available for Collaborate web conferencing sessions, if included as part of your course, due to the verbal interaction involved. *If you have general questions about online learning*, please contact **Colorado Mountain College Online Learning** at 800-621-8559, extension 8341 or [virtual@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:virtual@coloradomtn.edu).

**Introductory (Discussion) Assignment:** Please contribute to the introductory assignment discussion (See the instructions in the discussion topic question).

**PLEASE NOTE THE DUE DATE: January 22, 2012.**

**No-show reporting and financial aid:** If you have not completed your introductory assignment(s) in Canvas by January 22nd you will be reported as a no-show and dropped from the course. The resultant loss in credit hours may cause a reduction and/or cancellation of your financial aid award. Neither financial aid awards nor class reinstatement can occur after this point without significant documented extenuating circumstances. If you have questions or concerns about this please contact your campus financial aid specialist.  
([http://coloradomtn.edu/financial\\_aid](http://coloradomtn.edu/financial_aid))

## II. Course Description:

**PHI 218: Environmental Ethics.** Critically analyzes theories of value of the natural world. Topics 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, including deep ecology and eco-feminism; and the connection between moral and political values and economic policies.

## III. Student Learning Outcomes, Competencies, and Skills: **Course Competencies**

- I. Define and explain various traditional ethical theories.
- II. Define and explain various cultural, philosophical and religious perspectives on the environment.
- III. Analyze and evaluate the connections between science and technology and issues in environmental ethics.
- IV. Articulate and analyze important environmental issues.
- V. Analyze environmental issues by applying ethical theories and other cultural and religious perspectives.
- VI. Evaluate the effectiveness of various ethical theories in dealing with particular environmental issues.
- VII. Argue effectively about ethical issues in the environment.
- VIII. Analyze various types of environmental activism from an ethical perspective.

## IV. IDEA Student Ratings of Instruction:

In addition to the course competencies, successful completion of this course will provide training in the following IDEA Student Ratings:

1. *Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends).*
2. *Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories.*
3. *Developing specific skills, competencies, and points of view needed by professionals in the field most closely related to this course.*
4. *Developing skill in expressing oneself orally or in writing.*
5. *Acquiring an interest in learning more by asking questions and seeking answers.*

## V. Methods and Class Management:

- A. Course Activities and Design:** The course 'process' will consist of textbook and supplemental readings lecture notes, discussions, essays, reflective journal entries, quizzes, a research paper, and a final exam.

**Introduction notes:** The lecture notes are meant to be a brief introduction to the material covered in each unit; they are not meant to be exhaustive, as the textbook will be our main focus, and you will be responsible for your own further reading and research.

**Discussions:** There will be one discussion section per unit which will be a more formally structured 'Main Discussion' section for each unit, where you will be given specific questions to discuss based upon the readings for the unit. However there will also be an informal 'Coffee Shop' section, in which I will post an initial general

question for discussion. However, you are also welcome to post a comment or ask a question here.

**Essays:** There will be 2 to 3 essay topics to choose from, for each essay. Essays should be **4-6 pages** /1500 words double spaced (with a minimum of 750 words), on one of these topics, and submit it by the deadline. All written work must include proper citation of sources.

**Journal Entries:** You will be expected to submit five reflective journal entries (which may include reading questions), at least **1.5 pages** in length/@375 words, per unit (these should not exceed three pages). The purpose of this assignment is to give you an opportunity to reflect more personally and deeply upon the readings and materials.

**Quizzes:** There will be multiple-choice or short essay quizzes, drawn from the assigned readings the textbook or other sources. The quizzes are obviously 'open note' and 'open book'. You should allot at least two hours to complete a quiz

**Mid-term Exam:** The exam will cover all the material to that point in the course, and include multiple-choice, short answer questions and an essay question(s).

**Research Paper:** There will be one research paper, on a topic of your choice, including a thesis submission in advance, to be submitted by the deadlines (check the Course Schedule for dates). Guidelines will be provided.

## Assignments

During this course, your grade will be determined by *five* factors (summarized above): completion of (1) **Essay Questions**; writing (2) **Journal Entries**, (3) participation in **Threaded Discussions**; taking (4) **Quizzes**, and submitting (5) a **Research Paper**.

**A note on submitting written assignments:** All assignments must be completed and submitted to the Assignment tool in CANVAS (for a tutorial on how to submit assignments, see: <http://guides.instructure.com/s/2204/m/4212/1/41972-how-do-i-submit-an-online-assignment>). They are due before **midnight** of the due date (this information will be provided with the assignment, but also see the course Schedule). Submit well before the deadline to avoid disappointment due to technical difficulties. It is the student's responsibility to inform the instructor if you are having any problems in this regard. If work is submitted in any other format, there's no guarantee that I'll be able to read it! After you submit your assignment, I will endeavor to have it read and graded within seven days after submission.

All written assignments should include an **introductory paragraph with a thesis statement, followed by supporting arguments and then a summary conclusion. All written work should also include proper citation of your sources (even if it is the course textbook)**. Acceptable citation of sources includes putting **the author, title, date, and page number in parentheses** after initially drawing from a particular source -- e.g., (Molloy, M., *Experiencing the World's Religions*, 2003, p. 14). For subsequent citations from the same source, it is sufficient simply to reference the source by **name and page number** -- e.g., (Molloy, p. 22). If you use more than one source, please include a **bibliography**. For Internet sources, please cite the Web site, and in your bibliography include the date accessed; be warned that *failure to indicate sources can constitute plagiarism* (even

if you do not quote the source directly). For further information on proper citation of sources, see [www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/humanities.html](http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/humanities.html).

## (1) Essays

Your essays should reflect a concerted effort to deal with the issue addressed in the question. Answers should be YOUR OWN answers; cutting and pasting answers from the text, or from the Internet, is NOT an acceptable answer (*and technically constitutes plagiarism -- a serious offense!*). They should be submitted to me through the Assignment Dropbox tool. Please see the course Calendar to determine when the essays for each section are due.

Your answers will be evaluated on a scale of one to fifty; if an answer receives a grade below 'A' (e.g., a 44 or less), I may include **general** comments, which you can read in the Comments section of the assignment in the Grade Book; if you would like more detailed comments on your paper, please email me from within the course email system. If you are not satisfied with your grade, you may rewrite your paper once, and you will receive whichever is the higher of the two grades. However, the paper must be resubmitted to me within the course email system within **two weeks of the original due date in order** to receive a grade or credit. When submitting your answers, please type your name, and the question you are answering, at the top of the page.

**Points possible per essay:** 50 points.

**Please note:** It is very important that you take a clear position on your subject, and then support it with arguments and examples, articulating as best you can the relevant philosophical views and arguments as presented in the texts (along with your assessment of their strengths and weaknesses), where applicable. Aim for formal academic writing, and take care to avoid grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors (these will affect your grade).

Grade/Points	Essay Requirements
A (45-50)	The student has demonstrated excellent comprehension of the readings for the unit, and is able to articulate a well-reasoned response and a clear thesis.
B (40-44)	The student has demonstrated good comprehension of the readings for the unit, and is able to articulate a reasoned response and a thesis.
C (35-39)	The student has demonstrated a basic comprehension of the readings for the unit, and is able to articulate a relevant response and a vague thesis.
D (30-34)	The student has demonstrated little comprehension of the readings for the unit, and is unable to articulate a relevant response, let alone articulate an adequate thesis.
F (1-29)	The student has demonstrated no comprehension of the readings for the unit, and is unable to articulate a relevant response, and has no discernible thesis of any kind.

## (2) Journal Entries

You will be required to submit five **Journal Entries**. These journal entries should be reflective, and their primary purpose is to help you to formulate your own personal responses to the material. In each of these entries, you will be asked to address two areas:

1. Answer any questions on the readings as indicated.
2. Discuss a topic, reading, or issue of your choice which is directly relevant to the current unit; and Discuss your own personal reaction to the topic at hand, elaborating as to why or how it might be relevant for you personally, and/or for generally understanding the relevant ethical concepts today.

The journal entries are not necessarily meant to be entirely 'academic' in nature, and you will be graded on honesty, thoughtfulness, and effort. This includes effort to support points with specific reasons and examples.

***Points possible per journal entry: 10 points.***

The criteria for grading the journal entries are as follows:

Grade/Points	Journal Requirements
A (9-10)	The student answers questions in detail, obviously demonstrating the relevance of the material with a clear thesis and with well-supported points or examples.
B (8-8.9)	The student has answered questions in detail, and attempts to show the relevance of the material, yet lacks a clear thesis, or well-supported points or examples.
C (7-7.9)	The student has attempted to answer the questions in detail, yet lacks clarity in how the questions are answered, and lacks well-supported points or examples.
D (6-6.9)	The student shows little attempt to answer the questions in detail, and fails to provide well-supported points or examples.
F (0.00 – 5.9)	The student has not demonstrated that the material has been understood, lacks supporting examples, and fails to show how the material may be relevant.

## (3) Discussions

You will also be required to participate in **Threaded Discussions**. There are two kinds of threaded discussions. The *'Main Discussion'* of a unit/module-- I will introduce specific question(s) for you to address. New topics/questions may be added as the unit/module progresses, so check back often and respond to your instructor and other classmates. We also have a *'Coffee Shop'* area -- a more open and less structured forum which, in addition to the more general question(s) on the material for the unit, will provide an opportunity for you to relate more informally, and allow you to post your own comments and questions. Please remember to treat

everyone with courtesy and respect; in many cases, we are discussing controversial issues, and the discussion should be focused on the issue—and specifically on the arguments--rather than upon personalities, or on opinions or beliefs without philosophical argument. For each unit, you will be graded on the quality of your responses. Starting relevant discussions in the open forum will be considered when evaluating quality. Be aware that these minimum requirements do not guarantee a grade, but they must be met in order to receive a given grade.

NOTE: You will find that the rubric requires that your initial posting for each question, you are required to have a posting of **high quality**. For the purpose of these assignments, '**high quality**' is defined as a posting that demonstrates some knowledge of the material, and/or the ability to pose a genuinely pertinent question. No late discussion postings will be accepted, unless arranged with me ahead of time.

ADDITIONALLY: Please RESPOND/**REPLY** to the instructor posts (and subsequent replies to *these posts*). *This will help us keep things organized.* You should respond to each question in a separate posting (i.e., don't combine your initial responses into a single post).

**Points possible for discussion per unit: 20 points.**

The criteria for grading the discussions are as follows:

Grade/Points	Discussion Requirements
A (18 - 20)	At least 5 postings, on different days, that are high quality, and engage others in conversation.
B (16 - 17)	At least 4 postings, on different days, that are high quality, and some of which engage the idea of others.
C (14 - 15)	At least three postings on at least two different occasions, at least two of which are high quality.
D (12 - 13)	At least two postings, one of which is high quality.
F (0 - 11)	Less than two postings, or no postings of high quality.

#### (4) Introductory (Discussion) Assignment:

For details, see the discussion question.

**Points possible for Introductory Assignment: 10 points.**

#### (5) Research Paper

You will be required to write a 3000-3500 word **Research Paper**. You are welcome to focus in depth on any particular aspect/argument relating to a relevant issue in Environmental Ethics. You must incorporate at least one foundational ethical theory

(covered in unit 2) and one particular Environmental Ethical theory (e.g. biocentrism) in your argument (you may use a theory in support of your argument or argue against a theory). Although your paper must explore and use a theory or theories, it should be focused on a concrete policy, activity, or action (i.e., tie the theory to practical use or application).

**Your paper must contain proper references/citations, and must include a bibliography;** please use either the suggested method of citation of references provided above, or any of the commonly-accepted style guidelines for referencing sources (such as MLA, APA), including internal notes and a bibliography. For sources, you are encouraged to use the Resources page in each unit; however, **you must include at least two or three sources from traditional print media (e.g., books)**, as well. For traditional print media sources, you are encouraged to use the bibliographies at the end of the articles in the textbook.

***Points possible for research paper: 100 points.***

## **(6) Quizzes**

There will be **quizzes** for each unit, which must be completed by **11:55 PM of the due date** (see the course schedule). You will have up to two hours to take each quiz, and the quizzes are 'open book'.

***Points possible per quiz: 20 points/each.***

## **Late Written Assignments (essays, journals, papers):**

Submit well before the deadlines to avoid disappointment due to unforeseen circumstances or technical difficulties. In rare occasions, e.g. with medical documentation, and with my permission, you may submit a written assignment up to four days late, with a penalty of 10% of the grade per day. Late submissions may not be graded until the last week of the course. Quizzes and exams will be open for one week and cannot be taken past the due date.

## **Mutual Respect in CMC Communications:**

A very important aspect of online learning is respectful communication. The CMC Learning Community is based on the value of mutually respectful communication.

Upon enrolling in programs in CMC, students assume responsibility for respectful communications with other students and with course instructors, including communications which do not disrupt the online environment.

## **Disruptive Communications (Definition):**

- communications which disrupt the learning environment
- use of profanity, and/or insulting or harassing remarks, in email, discussions, chat, or telephone communications.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the act of using words and/or ideas from another person or source without acknowledgment of debt to that person or source, and is a serious academic crime. Students are expected to do their own work. Students are expected to follow the Academic/Plagiarism policies of their home institutions (available in your college

catalogue). You may not cut and paste (or in any other way copy) text into your short answers or your essays. That is plagiarizing, and not only is it unethical, but anyone caught intentionally plagiarizing text(s) may receive an "F" for the course. If you quote other sources, use quotation marks, and let me know the source. I will be glad to answer any questions you have in this regard.

## **Behavior**

When participating in threaded discussions, chats, or e-mail conversations, your language must appropriately reflect the academic discussions in which you will be participating. Remember that you are in a virtual classroom, and you should act with the same courtesy that is expected in a traditional classroom. Therefore, you should not use obscenities. Also, you should respond fairly and responsibly to the posted responses of other students. We will be covering many controversial questions, which may lead to honest disagreements. Remember to focus on the arguments in question, and not on attacking the character of the person making the arguments. Failure to heed this protocol will result in a lower grade. In addition, remember that sexual harassment is a violation of students' rights, and can be punishable by failure in the class, along with further penalties as may be deemed necessary. Finally, if you come across any postings of any sort that you find offensive, please e-mail me, or use your journal, to discuss your reaction. We need to balance the concerns of free academic speech with those of students to operate in a comfortable atmosphere.

## **Special Services**

If you have a learning or physical disability that will require special accommodation, please notify me immediately upon enrollment.

## **End of Semester**

You will be able to access the online class for one week after the end of the semester. However, the last day to turn in any work will be the last day of the semester, without exception. The extra week of access is only to check your grades.

## **NOTICE:**

A student judged to have engaged in academic misconduct as defined in the "Academic Policies and Requirements" section of the Colorado Mountain College Student Handbook will, at a minimum, receive a "zero" for the work in question. The student may also be removed from the class, resulting in a failing grade. All student course material may be submitted to Turnitin (or another anti-plagiarism program) at the instructor's discretion. "Academic Expectations," the "Student Code of Conduct and Judicial Process" and more information about academic misconduct can be found in the Student Handbook, online version at: [www.coloradomtn.edu/File/student\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.coloradomtn.edu/File/student_handbook.pdf)

Students are responsible for course materials from assigned text(s) and reading, lectures, labs, and other assignments as required.

The instructor may alter any, or all, of this syllabus during the semester as the learning environment requires. Students will be notified of changes in the Canvas course shell.

If you have a disability protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and feel you may need classroom accommodations based on the impact of your disability, please contact the Disability



Services Coordinator on your campus.

- Edwards and Steamboat Springs: Deb Farmer at 970-870-4450
- Aspen, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs (including Spring Valley), and Rifle: Dr. Anne Moll at 970-947-8256
- Breckenridge, Dillon, Leadville, and Chaffee County: Sandi Conner at 719-486-4200

Students wishing to withdraw from this course must INITIATE the course withdrawal/drop process at the site Registration Office.

This class could be cancelled one week prior to the census date if a sufficient number of students are not enrolled by that date.

## **VI. Grading System & Options:**

Information about grading is available in the Colorado Mountain College catalog. You will receive a grade report for current semester courses at the end of each term. This grade report is mailed to your permanent mailing address. Reports are mailed approximately two weeks after the end of the academic term. Additional information is available at:

[http://catalog.coloradomtn.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=620#Grading\\_System\\_and\\_Options\\_](http://catalog.coloradomtn.edu/content.php?catoid=3&navoid=620#Grading_System_and_Options_)

## **VII. Required Course Materials**

**Custom textbook for this class: Environmental Ethics: Colorado Mountain College: Philosophy**

**ISBN: 978-1-121-76877-2** (this is also available as an e text directly from the publisher—consult with the bookstore below if you wish to use this option).

### **ORDERING BOOKS**

Colorado Mountain College has chosen to partner with Follett Virtual Bookstores to operate textbook services.

The official textbook list for CMC will be available on Follett's site, [www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com](http://www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com). You also can easily access this site by choosing "bookstore" from the quick links on [www.coloradomtn.edu](http://www.coloradomtn.edu).

Students and other members of the campus community should sign up for the Online Textbook Store's email mailing list here [www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email](http://www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email) to receive important messages from the CMC Online Textbook Store.

Why did CMC choose Follett Virtual Bookstores?

- \* Follett offers its customers the best text rental program in the industry, which saves 50% or more off the cost of a new book.
- \* The online store also gives CMC students access to the largest supply of money-saving used textbooks, with 2.5 million in stock and ready to ship direct from Follett's warehouse.
- \* Follett offers the best price when buying back books at the end of the term. Students can sell back books anytime online or in-person at Follett's CMC buyback events. Sign up for the online store's email list at [www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email](http://www.coloradomtn.bkstr.com/email) for more info on future buyback dates and times.

If you ever have any online bookstore questions, you can email [coloradomtn@fvb.follett.com](mailto:coloradomtn@fvb.follett.com) or call 800-621-4088.

### **VIII. Other Information:**

#### **Grading Policies**

Points for the final course grade will be determined as follows:

<b>Class Assignment</b>	<b>Total Points</b>
Introductory (Discussion) Assignment	10 points
Discussions	100 points
Essays	100 points
Journals	50 points
Mid Term Exam	100 points
Quizzes	40 points
Research Paper	100 points
<b>Final Grade</b>	<b>500 points</b>

The grade for each assignment will be recorded in the Grade Book. Final grades will be based upon the following scale:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Points Necessary</b>
A	450 to 500 points
B	400 to 449 points
C	350 to 399 points
D	300 to 349 points
F	0 to 299 points

#### **Canvas**

Canvas by Instructure is the online learning management system (LMS) used by Colorado Mountain College. You access Canvas via your web browser, i.e.: Mozilla/Firefox, Internet Explorer, Opera, etc. Students, faculty and staff members use the CMC Canvas site to access course announcements, documents, research links and library resources, to receive and deliver completed assignments, take tests, and to communicate with each other via email, discussion boards and chat.

For instructions on How to Access your Canvas Account, Canvas How To's, and who to contact for all your Canvas questions and support needs, please visit: [www.coloradomtn.edu/web/departments/faq-for-students](http://www.coloradomtn.edu/web/departments/faq-for-students).

## **Student Email**

All CMC students enrolled in a credit-based class (0.5 hour credit class or more) will be assigned a CMC student email address through Google mail (Gmail). Please allow at least 48 hours after you register for this account to be activated. For more information on your CMC student email account, please visit the Student page of the MyCMC Portal: [mycmc.coloradomtn.edu](http://mycmc.coloradomtn.edu).

## **A Few Words About Microsoft Word**

Microsoft Word is the standard word processing program for the majority of CMC instructors. Students without Microsoft Word may use the free software from [www.OpenOffice.org](http://www.OpenOffice.org) to create Word-compatible documents. The program also includes spreadsheet, presentation, drawing, and database applications. The program is available for Windows, Macintosh, or Linux operating systems. Microsoft Word is installed on computers available in computer labs at CMC locations.

## **Virtual Library Information**

<http://library.coloradomtn.edu/content.php?pid=349163&sid=2891178>

The Virtual Library has its doors open 24/7, providing access to thousands of online journals and newspapers, books and art images, downloadable videos and audio books, career resources and practice tests.

If you need help with the Virtual Library, email [reference@coloradomtn.edu](mailto:reference@coloradomtn.edu) or call us at 800-621-8559, extension 2926.

## **Colorado Mountain College Online Learning**

Information is available at: [http://www.coloradomtn.edu/online\\_learning/](http://www.coloradomtn.edu/online_learning/).