

# NRM F303X, Environmental Ethics and Actions

## Course Syllabus, Spring Semester 2020

F01 9:45-11:15 AM Tuesdays & Thursdays, Murie 103/105  
F02 2:00-3:30 PM Tuesdays & Thursdays, Bunnell 410

**David Valentine, Instructor**  
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### **Textbooks:**

DesJardins, Joseph R. 2013. Environmental Ethics: An introduction to environmental philosophy, 5th edition. Wadsworth, Boston, MA. 282 p.

Brown, Marvin T. 2003. The Ethical Process: An approach to disagreements and controversial issues, 3<sup>rd</sup>

Additional readings will be posted on the course Blackboard site.

**Office Hours:** Generally TR 11:30-1:30 and by appointment. I maintain an “open door” policy to maximize student access. If I'm in my office, you're welcome to stop by for assistance. If you have trouble finding me, feel free to make an appointment.

**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.

**Disabilities:** If you have a physical or learning disability, please advise the instructor in writing of any necessary special consideration by the beginning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of class. We will do everything reasonable possible to accommodate you in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and university policy.

**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 identify and be able to describe the major principles, values, and assumptions underlying alternative positions on environmental issues and ethical approaches.
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**Incomplete grades:** We will follow the UAF Incomplete Grade Policy: “The letter “I” (Incomplete) is a temporary grade used to indicate that the student has satisfactorily completed (C or better) the majority of work in a course but for personal reasons beyond the student’s 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 the total points available for your class participation grade.

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 expl-M

