

Phil 3309 Environmental Ethics

Class Number 18185 Section MW12

Mon, Wed 12:50 – 2:05 PM 401 Whitehead

Instructor: Derek Skillings

Email: dskillings@gc.cuny.edu

This course will expose you to introductory concepts at the intersection of philosophical ethics, environmental science and ecology through an engagement with issues such as population growth and resource use, sustainability, nonhuman animal welfare, biodiversity loss, pollution, environmental justice, and global climate change. In the course of our discussions, we will examine an array of ethical problems: What is our responsibility to future generations? What are the moral standings of human and nonhuman species, ecosystems and the environment? Do we have an obligation to protect and preserve the wilderness? As a consumer YOU necessarily make choices that directly impact the environment. What sorts of moral considerations are relevant to us as consumers? What are our individual and collective moral obligations in responding to the threat of global climate change?

No prior experience with philosophy is required. The primary goals for this course are to provide students with conceptual resources so that they may further develop their ability to make and evaluate ethical arguments, and to engage students' ethical reasoning and reflection on pressing environmental issues.