

**CONTEMPORARY DEBATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS  
RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE; RESERVES AND PRESERVES  
GRADUATE SEMINAR Ejs0.2020, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**

In the face of renewed challenges to longstanding environmental policy, as well as global pressures to extract increasing quantities of resources despite growing scarcity, this course will revisit a foundational debate in environmental ethics: namely, whether we have obligations to preserve non-rational nature. The first portion of the course will focus on definitions of wilderness and nature. The second portion of the course will ask what economic and non-economic reasons we might have for protecting or preserving wetlands, forests, and oceans; and what sorts of costs we are willing to shoulder in order to preserve these resources. In the third part of the course we will discuss the matters of environmental justice, intergenerational justice, and cross-species justice as they relate to resources and wildlife.

**BOOKS:**        *Strangely Like War*, Derrick Jensen and George Draffan  
                      *What is Nature?*, Kate Soper  
                      *Ecology, Policy and Politics: Human Well-Being and the Natural World*, John O'Neill  
                      *Price, Principle, and the Environment*, Mark Sagoff  
                      *Respect for Nature*, Paul W. Taylor  
                      *Why Posterity Matters: Environmental Policies and Future Generations*, Avner de-Shalit  
                      *Course packet for photocopying available in the department office*

The above texts are required for satisfactory completion of the course. All books await your purchase at Shakespeare and Co. Books, at 716 Broadway. Reserve materials will be held at the front desk of 246 Greene Street, 3rd Floor West. The building closes at 10:00pm on Monday through Friday and 6:00pm on Saturday. The building is not open on Sunday. You are responsible for copying any reserve materials. Please return these materials promptly to the reserve folder, as other students will need them too.

You will be required to write two papers and to give one presentation. The presentation should cover the material for the day and bring the class up to speed on the issues in the reading. Your first paper will be primarily theoretical, and your second paper will be on an area related to your interests and the material we have covered in class.

<b>35%</b>	First Paper: 10 pages
<b>45%</b>	Second Paper: 13-15 pages
<b>20%</b>	Class presentation

In this course we will be examining the applied issue of forests and old growth forests, specifically as they relate to our conceptions of wilderness issues and values in nature. Insofar as much of the program in environmental conservation involves tailoring your course of study to suit your interests, however, it is perhaps best to conduct your own research in an area related to those interests for your projects. Some of you may be interested in globalization; some of you may be focusing on forestry; and some others in water. Therefore, I expect that you will contribute your own background knowledge to the papers and to class discussion. If you don't have any idea what interests you, make an appointment with me and we'll talk about possibilities.

Instructor: Benjamin Hale Spring Semester, 2005 Tuesdays, 6:45-8:25 Classroom: 246G, Conference Room, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
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E-mail: bhale@nyu.edu 246 Greene Street, Suite 300 Office Hours: 3:30 – 5:00 TTh Also by appointment or online
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ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS, NYU GRADUATE SEMINAR E50.2020

	Date	Course Readings
Wilderness and Nature	Jan 18	Introductions, Overview of Course, Discussion of Problems
	Jan 25	<i>Strangely Like War</i> , Derrick Jensen and George Draffan Environmental Ethics – What can philosophy offer? <i>Framing the Debate: Environmental Destruction as War</i>
	Feb 1	Excerpts from <i>The Death of Nature</i> , by Carolyn Merchant “Whose Nature? The Contested Moral Terrain of Ancient Forests,” James Proctor, 269-297, from William Cronon’s <i>Uncommon Ground</i> <i>Natural Resource or Unspoiled Wilderness?</i>
	Feb 8	<i>What is Nature?</i> , Kate Soper, Chps 1-3  <i>Nature as Evil? Nature as Other</i>
	Feb 15	<i>What is Nature?</i> , Kate Soper, Chps 4-8 “Re-Thinking Wilderness,” William Cronon (from <i>Uncommon Ground</i> ) <i>Resource Extraction as Plunder and Rape: Ecofeminist Conceptions of Nature</i>
	Feb 22	<i>Ecology, Policy and Politics: Human Well-Being and the Natural World</i> , John O’Neill Chps 1, 2, but not chapter 3 <i>Human Well-Being and the Aristotelian Approach</i>
Value and Worth	Mar 1	<i>Ecology, Policy and Politics: Human Well-Being and the Natural World</i> , John O’Neill Chps 4 - 5 <i>Perfectionism and Cost Benefit Analysis</i>
	Mar 8	<i>Ecology, Policy and Politics: Human Well-Being and the Natural World</i> , John O’Neill Chps 6 - 9 <i>Well-Being and the Good Life</i>
	Mar 15	<b>Spring Recess</b>
	Mar 22	<i>Price, Principle and the Environment</i> , Mark Sagoff, Chps 1-5 First Paper Due <i>Use and Exchange Value, Willingness to Pay, and Contingent Valuation</i>
Justice	Mar 29	<i>Price, Principle and the Environment</i> , Mark Sagoff, Chps 6-9  <i>Wild Ecosystems, the Wealth of Nature, and the Kantian Response</i>
	Apr 5	<i>Respect for Nature</i> , Paul Taylor, Chps 2 & 3 Essays from Barry’s <i>Obligations to Future Generations</i> <i>Interspecies Justice and Biocentric Individualism</i>
	Apr 12	<i>Respect for Nature</i> , Paul Taylor, Chps 4, 5 & 6 Essays from Barry’s <i>Obligations to Future Generations</i> <i>Interspecies Justice and Biocentric Individualism</i>
	Apr 19	<i>Why Posterity Matters</i> , Avner de-Shalit, Chps 1, 2 & 3 <i>Ecology, Policy and Politics</i> , O’Neill, Chp 3 <i>The Transgenerational Community, Utilitarian Theories and Contractarian Theories</i>
	Apr 26	<i>Why Posterity Matters</i> , Avner de-Shalit, Chps 4, 5 & 6  <i>Communitarian Theories: the Rights of Future people</i>