COURSE OUTLINE: PCS202 - ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

Prepared: General Arts and Science Department
Approved: Karen Hudson - Dean

Course Code: Title	PCS202: ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS
Program Number: Name	1105: GAS - ONE-YEAR 1115: GAS-UNIV TRANSFER
Department:	PEACE AND CONFLICT
Academic Year:	2025-2026
Course Description:	This course introduces students to ethical theories and practices through the examination of environmental issues. The purpose of this course is to cultivate an understanding of the relationship between the natural environment and its impact on both humans and other living systems. Students will examine environmental issues from a variety of traditional and contemporary ethical frameworks. Emphasis will be placed on both theoretical and practical exploration of such issue as: ecological well-being, increasing/decreasing population, global warming, climate change, world water crisis, deforestation, animal rights and welfare.
Total Credits:	3
Hours/Week:	3
Total Hours:	42
Prerequisites:	There are no pre-requisites for this course.
Corequisites:	There are no co-requisites for this course.
Substitutes:	OEL1022
Vocational Learning Outcomes (VLO's) addressed in this course: **Please refer to program web page for a complete listing of program outcomes where applicable.**	**1105 - GAS - ONE-YEAR** VLO 1 Develop, through general knowledge gained in a wide range of subjects, insight into both self and society. VLO 2 Develop flexibility and clarity of both thought and expression in order to develop communications competence to a level required by business and industry. VLO 3 Understand and utilize critical thinking processes and problem solving techniques. VLO 4 Examine and evaluate various aspects of our changing society to assist in developing a sense of personal and social responsibility as a citizen in society. VLO 5 Employ basic vocational skills drawn from the areas of the Humanities, Social and Behavioural Sciences of Vocational Studies (Business, Technology). **1115 - GAS-UNIV TRANSFER** VLO 1 Develop, through general knowledge gained in a wide range of subjects, insight into both self and society. VLO 2 Develop flexibility and clarity of both thought and expression in order to develop communications competence to a level required by business and industry. VLO 3 Understand and utilize critical thinking processes and problem solving techniques.

	VLO 4 Examine and evaluate various aspects of our changing society to assist in developing a sense of personal and social responsibility as a citizen in society.
	VLO 5 Employ basic vocational, skills drawn from the areas of the Humanities, Social and Behavioural Sciences of Vocational Studies (Business, Technology).
Essential Employability Skills (EES) addressed in this course:	EES 1 Communicate clearly, concisely and correctly in the written, spoken, and visual form that fulfills the purpose and meets the needs of the audience.
	EES 2 Respond to written, spoken, or visual messages in a manner that ensures effective communication.
	EES 4 Apply a systematic approach to solve problems.
	EES 5 Use a variety of thinking skills to anticipate and solve problems.
	EES 6 Locate, select, organize, and document information using appropriate technology and information systems.
	EES 7 Analyze, evaluate, and apply relevant information from a variety of sources.
	EES 8 Show respect for the diverse opinions, values, belief systems, and contributions of others.
	EES 9 Interact with others in groups or teams that contribute to effective working relationships and the achievement of goals.
	EES 10 Manage the use of time and other resources to complete projects.
	EES 11 Take responsibility for ones own actions, decisions, and consequences.
Course Evaluation:	Passing Grade: 50%, A minimum program GPA of 2.0 or higher where program specific standards exist is required for graduation.
Books and Required Resources:	Course Materials, Readings, Handouts, Video, etc., (provided by the professor)

Course Outcomes and Learning Objectives:

Course Outcome 1	Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 1
1. Identify and explain basic concepts and terminology relating to environmental ethics and philosophy.	1.1 Define key ethical terms, such as, value, norms, moral status and agency 1.2 Describe the difference between the concepts of ethics and morals 1.3 Recognize how moral responsibility applies to the natural world 1.4 Discuss different cultural systems, values and worldviews
Course Outcome 2	**Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 2**
2. Identify and analyze different environmental and ecological philosophies.	2.1 Describe various ethical systems, frameworks and practices 2.2 Differentiate between anthropocentric, non-anthropocentric and holistic systems of ethics 2.3 Discus radical ecological and non-western ethical approaches to the natural environment 2.4 Debate environmental issues and controversies using different philosophical theories and principles
Course Outcome 3	**Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 3**

3. Evaluate both environmental and ecological controversies from a variety of perspectives.	3.1 Apply traditional and contemporary philosophical theories and methodologies to environmental problems 3.2 Examine environmental issues through individual case studies and current events 3.3 Assess traditional and contemporary ethical responses to a variety of environmental issues
Course Outcome 4	**Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 4**
4. Defend and promote the environment's right to security.	4.1 Identify strategies that promote environmental welfare 4.2 Assess the role public policy plays in environmental protection and welfare 4.3 Justify extending moral standing and rights to the natural world 4.4 Consider the stewardship role of human beings to the planet 4.5 Argue the environmental responsibilities human beings have toward the natural world and to our future generations
Course Outcome 5	**Learning Objectives for Course Outcome 5**
5. Discuss the relationship between a sustainable environment and its impact on both human and other living systems.	5.1 Discuss how the separate parts of the ecosystem (including humans) function as a whole 5.2 Explain the importance of environmental awareness in relation to ecological well-being 5.3 Outline the ramifications of disrupting the ecological balance of the planet

Evaluation Process and Grading System:

Evaluation Type	Evaluation Weight
Assignment(s)	30%
Major Project	30%
Quizzes and Exam	40%

Date: June 23, 2025

Addendum: Please refer to the course outline addendum on the Learning Management System for further information.