

# 134.218 Environmental Philosophy<sup>1</sup>

## – Course Outline for Students<sup>2</sup> –



## Teaching Staff

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In semester 2, 2020, Monday is our weekly **Albany Philosophy Walk-In-On-Us Day**, so you can come and see us in person between 10:00-18:00 without prior appointments (Atrium Building, level 2, offices AT2.41, AT2.48, and AT2.49). For personal meetings on other days, please email us for availabilities first. We're perfectly happy to meet you virtually in Zoom too, of course – please email us for availabilities.

Internal Manawatū campus students also have the option of making appointments to see our colleague Vanessa Schouten in person (please email [v.schouten@massey.ac.nz](mailto:v.schouten@massey.ac.nz)).

<sup>1</sup> For latest information on course details like prerequisites, restrictions, withdrawal dates, venues, and fees, please check online at [http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/programme-course/course.cfm?course\\_code=134218](http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/programme-course/course.cfm?course_code=134218) (select the mode and location for which you're enrolled).

<sup>2</sup> This outline remains subject to change, especially to account for latest developments in society and science, and to address the interests and needs of our students.

## Course Subject

This course uses Philosophy to explore contemporary environmental issues, such as whether our concern for environmental well-being can be adequately grounded in a concern for human well-being, the contributions of indigenous approaches to environmental philosophy, and the role of the sciences.

## Semester Dates and Class Timetable

**Lecture period:** 20 July to 16 October 2020 (*12 weeks, break excluded*).

**Mid-semester break:** 31 August to 4 September 2020 (*1 week*).

**Final exam:** This semester, our final exam takes the form of a final online test between 27 October to 2 November. During that week, you can take the test whenever it suits you (via our Stream course page), and you have 24 hours to complete it once you start.

**Weekly lectures:** Mondays, 10:00-12:00, face-to-face in Albany and via video-link to Manawatū campus; lecture-recordings will be made available to distance students in particular<sup>3</sup>.

**Weekly tutorials:** Thursdays, 12:00-13:00, face-to-face in Albany and via video-link to Manawatū campus; plus dedicated online Zoom tutorial(s) at agreed-upon day(s) and time(s)<sup>4</sup>. *Please note that tutorials start in semester week 2.*

For information about dates for withdrawing from this course, please check online at:

[http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/programme-course/course.cfm?course\\_code=134218](http://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/programme-course/course.cfm?course_code=134218)

(select the mode and location for which you're enrolled)

## Course Modules and Weekly Topics

The course is divided into three modules, each of which is four weeks long (mid-semester break aside).

1. Basic Concepts and Environmental Ethics
2. Indigenous Environmental Philosophies
3. Environmental Philosophy and the Sciences

Each module is taught by a philosopher who specialises in the particular contents of that part, thereby giving students access to different (though related) areas in the field of Environmental Philosophy, as well as exposing them to different academic personalities and teaching styles.

All course readings will be provided as electronic documents, posted on our course page in Stream.

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<sup>3</sup> Based on attendance during the first semester weeks, we'll decide whether (and when) they'll also be made available to internal students.

<sup>4</sup> Scheduling to be determined on the basis of an online poll in weeks 0 and 1.

Week	Topic
1	Nature and Environment
2	Biophilia and Value Theory
3	Ethics for the Environment
4	Ethics and the Problem of Consumption
5	Indigenous Socio-Environmental Philosophies
6	Introduced Species and Predator-Free New Zealand
	<i>Mid-Semester Break</i>
7	Legal Personality and the Rights of Nature
8	Climate Justice and Indigenous Peoples
9	Why Haven't we Fixed Climate Change?
10	The Place of Values in Conservation Science: Can Scientists Be Advocates?
11	Biodiversity, Triaging, and Constraints
12	The Anthropocene: Are We Living in a New Geological Epoch?

## Expectations of You

This course will be taught in a blended format, meaning that the core lecture content will be provided in-class as well as online, and that discussions too will be conducted both face-to-face (in class and in Zoom meetings) and online through our Stream forums.

As a reminder, this course is worth 15 credits. It means that you should expect to devote at least an average of 10-12 hours each week to reading, study, discussion, and preparing assessments related to this class.

### Meaningful Engagement and Participation in Online Platforms and In-Class Activities

You may find some of the material challenging throughout the course. If this is the case, rest assured that you will not be the only student in that position. Don't hesitate to raise your hand during class if you have a question or do not understand something. You may also contact your lecturers with your question(s) after class, during office hours, or via email. We do ask that you refrain from personal conversation in class (whether it's directly with fellow classmates or online, say, via Facebook, WhatsApp, and the likes).

Be respectful of the comments, ideas, and questions discussed and posed by others – differing opinions make the course interesting and are encouraged. Always remain courteous and respectful of others. While we oppose personal conversations, we very much encourage comments, questions, and discussion related to our course content (when appropriate). Occasionally, we may have to curtail even those conversation though, especially when we have to cover a lot of other material. Please do not take such measures personally, and do not let it stop you from further pursuing philosophical discussion after class (eg, in our Stream forums).

## Assessments and Grades

**Quizzes** (worth 15 percent total): For modules 2 and 3, students have to complete quizzes worth 7.5 percent each. The content of the quizzes tends to revolve around our course readings, and they will usually be in short-answer format.

**Course essay** (worth 35 percent total): Addressing a question that relates to the material of module 1, students first have to hand in a 750-word essay case and plan (worth 5 percent) and subsequently participate in a peer-review exercise (worth another 5 percent). Taking into account their peer-feedback and developing their arguments, students then write and submit their final 2,000-word essay (worth 25 percent).

**Final exam** (worth 50 percent total): Addressing questions that relate to the material of modules 2 and 3, students have to sit a final online test. That test will be made up of 6-8 questions total, and students have to write essays on *any two* of them.

**Optional plussage** (worth 5 percent total): To encourage philosophical discussion, students can earn up to five additional percent for their activity in our online course forums. For each week in which they *both* create an original post that addresses that week's class material *and* reply to the post of another student, they can earn 1 percent (up to 5 percent max). To qualify, posts have to be well thought-out and respectful.

#	Assessment	Weight	Comments	Due date(s)
1	Essay case and plan / peer-review	10% total	Students submit a 500-word outline of the case on which their essay will be based, plus a 250-word outline of the key arguments they are planning to make in their essay (worth 5%). They will then anonymously peer-review the submissions of two fellow classmates (each review is worth 2.5%).	Case and plan: 16 August 2020  Peer-reviews: 30 August 2020
2	Course essay	25%	Students submit a 2,000-word essay on a set topic relevant to the material of weeks 1 to 4.	27 September 2020
3	Quiz	7.5%	Two short-answer questions covering the second part of the course.	20 September 2020
4	Quiz	7.5%	Two short-answer questions covering the third part of the course.	18 October 2020
5	Exam	50%	Consisting of a 2-hour exam requiring students to answer two essay questions taken from weeks 5-12.	TBD

Plussage	5%	Bonus percentage for being active in our weekly forums.
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You're expected to complete all assignments on time. Contact the lecturer in charge of the relevant assignment at least 24 hours before the due date if you need an extension. Extensions are only granted in special circumstances (including, but not limited to, medical emergencies) and are given on a case-by-case basis. Late assignments will receive a 5% reduction for each week late (partial late weeks receive the full 5% reduction).

Assignments handed in on the due date will be returned within a 3-week period. Assignments handed in after the due date will be marked at the discretion of the lecturer.

### Plagiarism

Assignments 1 and 2 must be submitted via dedicated electronic dropboxes in Stream. In doing so, they will be processed through Turnitin, a service designed to detect how much of a piece of writing is not the students own work and flag potential cases of plagiarism. Often, these flags result from poor referencing practice, which we try to address by helping you to improve your essay-writing technique. However, sometimes they indicate serious attempts at someone presenting the work of others as his or her own (see *Academic Integrity* below for more details).

For details about plagiarism, please visit:

<https://owll.massey.ac.nz/referencing/plagiarism.php>

For details about Turnitin, please visit:

<https://owll.massey.ac.nz/referencing/turnitin.php>

## Course Policies

### Conditions for Aegrotat Pass and Impaired Performance

If you are prevented by illness, injury or serious crisis from attending a compulsory learning experience, an examination or completing an element of assessment (worth 10% or more) by the due date, or if you consider that your performance has been seriously impaired by such circumstances, you may apply for aegrotat or impaired performance consideration. You must apply on the Aegrotat & Impaired Performance Application form available from the Massey University website. The completed form must be accompanied by a certificate signed by a health professional, and/or corroborating evidence.

All relevant details and forms are available here:

[https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/exams/before-your-exams/aegrotat-impaired-performance/aegrotat-impaired-performance\\_home.cfm](https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/exams/before-your-exams/aegrotat-impaired-performance/aegrotat-impaired-performance_home.cfm)

### Disability Disclosure

Any student with a physical or mental health problem which may affect performance during the course activities for this paper is encouraged to inform the Course Controller. Consult the Student Health and Counselling Centre (extension 41410) if you are in doubt. The provision of this information is voluntary. It is important that you should make known any health conditions which

may affect your safety or the safety of others. Contact the Disabilities Coordinator, Gerard Chow, on extension 43203.

### Grievance Procedures

A student who claims that he/she has sustained academic disadvantage as a result of the actions of a University staff member should use the University Grievance Procedures. Students, whenever practicable, should in the first instance approach the University staff member concerned. If the grievance is unresolved with the staff member concerned, the student should then contact the relevant Head of Institute/School/Department or College office for further information on the procedures. The procedures can be found on the University website in the University Calendar.

### Academic Integrity

It is mandatory that any assessment items that you submit during your University study are your own work. Massey University takes a firm stance on academic misconduct, such as plagiarism and any form of cheating.

Plagiarism is the copying or paraphrasing of another person's work, whether published or unpublished, without clearly acknowledging it. It includes copying the work of other students and reusing work previously submitted by yourself for another Course.

Academic integrity breaches impact on students as it disadvantages honest students and undermines the credibility of your qualification. Massey has purchased a licence to utilise Turnitin, a text-matching web application to assist with the detection of copying. Assignments submitted to Turnitin will be compared with material available on the world wide web including electronic books, journals, newsCourses, cheat sites (or course mills), web pages and previously submitted assignments. Your lecturer will let you know if your assignments are going to be submitted to Turnitin.

This is our policy of dealing with serious cases of plagiarism:

1. As a minimum, any and all plagiarised portions of your submission count as non-existent, and your work will be marked only on the remainder. This results in a significantly reduced assignment mark, usually far below passing grade. In case of repeat offences, the submission may receive zero marks.
2. We refer the case to our Head of Programme, who will then meet with you to discuss the seriousness of your offence.
3. We pass information about the offence to the University. As a result, repeat offences can be tracked not only across a difference papers within a programme, but across courses at Massey University as a whole.

See the Academic Integrity Guide for Students on the University website for more information:

<https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/about-massey/university-management/avc-academic/academic-integrity/integrity-home.cfm>

The Guide steps you through the University Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures. For example, you will find definitions of academic integrity misconduct, such as plagiarism; how misconduct is determined and managed; and where to find resources and assistance to help develop the skills of academic writing, exam preparation and time management. These skills will help you approach university study with academic integrity.

### Additional Policies

Please be polite and turn off your cell phones during the class period. If mobile phones are seen or heard, you may be asked to leave the class.

While the use of laptops is permitted, they are to be used for taking notes or adding to class discussion. Any other use of laptops may result in you being asked to leave class, and you will be prohibited from using your computer in class in the future.

## **Library**

The Massey University Library provides resources and help to support your study. To search, borrow, request, renew books, articles, videos, and ebooks, visit:

[https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/research/library/library\\_home.cfm](https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/research/library/library_home.cfm)

Learn how to search specific databases, reference, attend workshops and more. You can also log in to your *MyLibrary* record to check your due dates, renew your books, view your reading history and request items from the library catalogue. Below is the Library's contact information:

Phone: 0800 MASSEY (0800 627 739), ask for the Library

Call direct: +64 6 350 5670, extension 2880

Email: [library@massey.ac.nz](mailto:library@massey.ac.nz)

## **Additional Services for Students**

### Academic Support Request Form

A web-based Academic Support Request form is located within the OWLL (Online Writing and Learning Link) website. Distance students can submit requests, ranging from help about writing assignments to effective ways of learning in the university setting. It does not give specific content-based assistance. Consultants will respond to these requests by the following business day.

Go to:

<https://owll.massey.ac.nz/about-OWLL/contact.php>

### Assignment review: Pre-reading Service

This free service has now been extended to all students (previously only distance and first-year students were eligible). It offers you an opportunity to send your draft assignment to CTL Writing Consultants for review and advice.

You can submit 3 assignments to the service per semester, and the consultants will dedicate 1 hour (undergraduate students) or 1½ hours (postgraduate students) to your review.

Allow 3 working days for assignment turnaround. (The service is closed on public holidays, university holidays and over the Christmas break.)

Go to:

<http://pre-reading.massey.ac.nz>

### Academic Q + A

To ask any question related to the academic skills of writing, researching, referencing, or to see what other students have asked and read the answers, go to the Academic Q + A discussion board which can be found on the Academic Writing and Learning Support course on Stream. A Learning Consultant from the Centre for Teaching and Learning will answer all questions within 24 working hours and other students will often contribute too.

You can make an appointment to discuss either study skills, using Stream effectively or the review of an assignment with a Learning/Writing Consultant. Make sure you book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Go to:

<http://stream.massey.ac.nz/mod/forum/view.php?id=169>

### Study Workshops

Each campus offers a series of workshops to cater to the wide genre of students ranging from first year students to postgraduates. Students will be able to participate in on presentations that cover strategies for writing assignments to effective time management. Students can also attend these workshops off-campus from wherever they are in the country.

For information go to:

<http://owll.massey.ac.nz/about-OWLL/workshops.php>

### Writing and Study Skills Handouts

A large collection of handouts on topics ranging from the correct way of referencing to effective exam strategies is available. View these online or request a hard copy if you do not have Internet access. In particular, the Centre for Teaching and Learning have created an Academic Writing: A Guide to Tertiary Level.

Go to:

<https://owll.massey.ac.nz/academic-writing/academic-writing-e-book.php>

## **Feeling Overwhelmed?**

Are you...

- Having doubts, sudden feelings of incompetence?
- Having awful realisations of time running out?
- In other words, thinking of withdrawing?

Before you do, ask yourself...

- Will I regret this later?
- Will I feel better after a cup of coffee / the baby has gone to sleep / the weather has improved?
- Do I really have to decide now?
- Should I write to or phone my course coordinator?



Tell yourself...

- I've got this far, I might as well finish.
- I have the right kind of reasons to ask for an extension of time for the assignment.
- I could even send in a draft outline if I am confused and don't know if I'm on the right track.
- There are people around who can help if I ask.

Do...

- Talk about it with your Course coordinator. Often students withdraw because, working in isolation, they do not realise that other students are having the same problems and in fact, compared to others, they are doing very well. Make contact and find out how you are going, and what suggestions the Course coordinator can make to help you. Discuss withdrawing with your family, your employer and others important to you.
- Get on with what needs to be done now (leave future tasks to the future).

If after all that you find you have no alternative but to withdraw, then...

- Find the information you need here:  
[https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/admission/enrolment/change\\_withdraw\\_study.cfm](https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/admission/enrolment/change_withdraw_study.cfm)
- However, please contact us too, if you possibly can. We're interested to hear what your problems have been, and whether there is some way I can make it possible for you to take this course again in a future year.

The only way you can be withdrawn or change your course is to notify the Enrolment Office. Writing to the Course coordinator or tutor does not affect your withdrawal.

## **OWLL Resources**

*Massey's Online Writing and Learning Link (OWLL)*

OWLL is Massey University's gateway to a wide range of study and writing resources. All students, whether internal or distance, undergraduate or postgraduate, native English speaking or ESOL, can use this website to develop their academic skills.

Go to:

<https://owll.massey.ac.nz>

This website is an up to date resource for:

- Academic writing
- Referencing
- Writing essays
- Writing reports
- Planning your time

Various interactive referencing tools helps you with every type of reference you may come across. The OWLL website contains information and workshops to assist you with your study.

Go to:

<https://owll.massey.ac.nz/main/referencing.php>