

01AD003

Introduction to Environmental Ethics 環境倫理学概論

Two credit course; offered in the 1st Term on Fridays, 1st and 2nd periods

Class Room: C103 in “Rikakeito”

BBS Site: <http://9313.teacup.com/matsuiethics/bbs>

Applied Environmental Ethics Study Group Home Page: www.envr.tsukuba.ac.jp/~envvethic/

Instructors

渡邊和男 (Watanabe, Kazuo)、

増田美砂 (Misa Masuda)、

*世話人 (Coordinator) : 松井健一 (Matsui, Kenichi)

*Coordinator's contact

Office : 理 B305

Tel: 029-853-6701

Email: [kenichim\(a\)envr.tsukuba.ac.jp](mailto:kenichim(a)envr.tsukuba.ac.jp)

Office hours :

Monday-Friday: 2-3 pm or by appointment

“The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.” — Isaac Asimov

I. Outline

This course provides a broad overview of applied ethical issues that are related to symbiotic and sustainable human-nature relationships. In essence, rather than engaging in pure philosophical debate, this course aims to examine principles and directives that can be practicably applied to solving environmental issues in various global contexts. To be more specific, our topics include the history of environmental ethics and (global) bioethics; environmental governance for the age of global warming, the maintenance of biological diversity; international environmental diplomacy; animal rights and welfare; participatory forestry management; household environmental ethics; and indigenous environmental ethics. These wide-ranging topics provide with contexts, in which all students discuss the ethical, legal, and social implications of environmental problems in search for sustainable relationships between human populations and the natural environment. Throughout this course, you are encouraged to develop and refine your own constructive insights that can better help global citizens to coordinate and maximize their efforts in dealing with many regional and global environmental issues today and tomorrow.

II. Evaluation

Attendance	15%
Take-home mid-term exam	35%
Take-home final exam	35%
Class contribution	15%

III. Assignments (To be handed in to a report box at Room #A208)

Throughout this course, you will submit two written assignments in English. In principle, these are take-home exams, and you are strongly advised to meet the deadlines. If you require extension due to some unavoidable reason, please contact Matsui ASAP. In this case, you may be asked to submit a written document that sufficiently proves it.

a. Take-home mid-term exam: Due on May 27, 5 pm

You will choose your topic **from the contents of the first four lectures**, and write your **analytical opinion (not descriptive summary)** in an academic essay format. The length of your paper is about **two pages (or up to 700 words, not including notes and bibliography)**, in addition to footnotes or endnotes and references. **Your paper must be clearly typed and double spaced with 12 point font size.**

These papers will be marked with detailed comments by your instructor and returned to you in June (in classroom). Upon receiving mark and comments, you may revise your paper within one week and resubmit your revision to Matsui. Your revision can be reconsidered and you may have a chance to have your mark improved.

Your take-home exam must respond to one or two salient ethical questions in the lecture contents of this course. You also will read more than three article-length (chapter-length) sources about your chosen topic to write this paper and **properly cite them**.^{*} The handouts for this course can be included in your list.

But how can you proceed? (1) First, you need to choose your own essay topic. For example, when you find the controversy over Japanese whaling interesting, you ask yourself an academic or investigative question as to why the controversy cannot be easily solved even though top bureaucrats have spent so many years. (2) Then you will read more than three related sources (article or chapter length in English or Japanese) that may help you answer your question. (3) Next, you will formulate your own opinion about this topic/ question and (4) write your **constructive** opinion that can contribute to the further development of environmental ethics. In so doing, please keep in mind that as every published article or book has both positive and negative implications, you are expected to carefully examine both strength and weakness of your chosen sources for your paper topic. If you have hard time to choose your topic, please do not hesitate to contact your coordinator for advice (see page 1 for the office hours).

b. Take-home final exam: Due on June 24, 5 pm

The same as above, but, for this assignment, you will choose your topic **from lecture contents that were discussed between May 27 and June 17**. **These papers will be marked and returned to the “report return box” at room A208 for you to pick up.** The return date will be sometime after mid-July. For the exact return date or any other questions about this assignment, please contact your coordinator of this course. Please also note, you will not have detailed comments on the final take-home largely due to time constraints. If you still wish to have comments, please ask Matsui.

*** Warning on Plagiarism:** Every academic writer must not plagiarize in writing assignment no matter how short the paper may be. If one takes the words, ideas, or research of another person(s) without proper citation as if these were his or her own, such a person is considered to have committed the act of plagiarism. **Plagiarism is intellectual theft and a clear violation of the code of ethics and behavior, which often result into a severe penalty.** Some students find web sites (e.g., Wikipedia) tempting and copy a large portion of it without citation. Please be aware such a work cannot be considered worth being part of admitting a credit in this course.

For more detailed information about how to properly cite, please consult the following academic style guide:

- **Chicago Manual of Style**, University of Tsukuba Central Libraries call #021.03-Ma48;
- **Modern Language Association (MLA) guide**, University of Tsukuba Libraries call #836.5-G42 or look at its official web site: http://www.mla.org/style_faq;
- **American Psychological Association (APA) guide**, University of Tsukuba Libraries call #140.7-P96 or look at its official web site: www.apastyle.org/elecref.html;
- **Council of Science Editors (CSE) guide**, University of Tsukuba Libraries call #409-St9

Or follow some academic books or journals from major university publishers.

IV. Regarding Your Class Contribution

a. This course seeks to secure a safe learning environment, in which all students are welcome to express their opinions without worrying about making mistakes. You are expected to share your opinion with other students and learn from each other *with due respect*. Keeping this in mind as the basic underlying principle of this course, I occasionally ask you to express or write your opinion in progress about some issues that are salient in environmental ethics. This course has its own Bulletin Board System (BBS) for all of us to exchange ideas. The web address for this site is: <http://9313.teacup.com/matsuiethics/bbs>. I also occasionally will ask you to write your opinion on a piece of paper within seven days. For this, please submit your paper to the course's "report box" at room A208 (across the Sustainable Environmental Studies office).

V. Recommended readings

Please see the attached list of recommended readings, which will be provided on April 15.

VI. Course Contents & Schedule (may slightly change)

1. **April 15**

Course Orientation

By Kenichi Matsui

2. **April 22**

History of Environmental Ethics

By Matsui

<<No Class on April 29>>

3. **May 6**

Special Lecture on Environmental Diplomacy in Japan —May 6

By Ministry of Foreign Affairs

4. **May 13**

(a) **Sustainable Development and International Environmental Negotiations**

(b) **Introduction to Sustainable Development, MDG and MEA**

(c) **International Environmental Laws associated with Bioindustry**

By Kazuo Watanabe

5. **May 20**

History of Bioethics

By Matsui

6. **May 27**

Environmental Governance for Global Warming

(a) **View and discuss documentary film “An Inconvenient Truth”**

(b) **Lecture of Environmental Governance for the Age of Global Warming**

By Matsui

«Deadline for take-home mid-term exam: May 27»

7. **June 3**

Participatory Forestry Management in the Tropics

By Misa Masuda

8. June 10

Animal Rights and Welfare

(a) View and discuss “The Cove”

(b) Lecture on Animal Rights and Welfare

By Matsui

9. June 17

(a) Household Environmental Ethics

(b) Environmental Ethics of Indigenous Peoples and Traditional Knowledge

By Matsui

10. June 24: No Class

«Deadline for take-home final exam on June 24»