

01AD021

Introduction to Environmental Ethics 環境倫理学概論

Two credit course; offered in the 1st Term on Fridays; 8:40-11:25 am

Class Room: C103 in “Rikakei-to” or Natural Sciences Building

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

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

Instructors

Masakazu AOKI; Takahiro ENDO; Taiichi ITO; Maki TSUJIMURA; Kazuo WATANABE

Coordinator: Kenichi, MATSUI

*Coordinator's contact

Office : 理 B305

Tel: 029-853-6701

Email: kenichim@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 ethical issues that are pertinent to human-nature relationships. Our topics of interests include the history of environmental ethics and (global) bioethics; the concept and practice of wilderness preservation; environmental governance for the age of global warming, the maintenance of biological diversity; animal rights and welfare; the risk consideration for genetic engineering and genetically engineered organisms/ products; household environmental ethics (e.g., agriculture, chemical contaminations, and precautionary principle), water problems, whaling, and indigenous environmental ethics, among others. These wide-ranging topics provide contexts to discuss about how we better coordinate directions for achieving environmental conservation and sustainability. Throughout this course, students are encouraged to develop and refine your own original and innovative insights on how humans can better coordinate their efforts to deal 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(s), please contact the coordinator (Matsui) of this course ASAP. In some case, you may be asked to submit a written document that sufficiently proves your need for extension.

a. Take-home mid-term exam: Due on May 14, 5 pm

You will choose your topic from the contents of the first six classes, and write your **analytical opinion (not descriptive summary)** in an academic essay format. The length of your paper is about **two pages**, 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).**

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? For example, let's assume you are inspired by Professor Tsujimura's lecture on groundwater problems. You will read more than three related sources (article or chapter length in English or Japanese). Then, you will formulate your own opinion about this topic/ question and 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 25, 5 pm

The same as above, but, for this assignment, you will choose your topic from lecture contents that were discussed between May 21 and June 18. These papers will NOT be marked with detailed comments due to time constraints for providing final grades, but they will be 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.

*** Warning on Plagiarism:** Every academic writer must be aware of the risk of plagiarizing in writing your 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 they 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 web sites (e.g., Wikipedia) often lure students to 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/electref.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 provide 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 10.

VI. Course Contents & Schedule (may change)

1. **Course Orientation**—April 9
By Kenichi Matsui
 2. **History of Environmental Ethics** —April 16
By Kenichi Matsui
 3. **History of Bioethics** —April 23
By Kenichi Matsui
 4. **Environmental Governance for Global Warming** —April 30
By Kenichi Matsui
=View and discuss documentary film “An Inconvenient Truth”=
 5. **Special Lecture on Environmental Diplomacy of Japan** —May 7
By Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 6. **Ethics and Laws for Researchers**—May 14
Part 1: Environmental Consideration of the Use of LMOs
Part 2: International Environmental Laws
By Kazuo Watanabe
 - «Deadline for take-home mid-term exam on May 14»**
 7. **Part 1: Is Killing and Capturing Whales and Dolphins Ethical?**—May 21
 Part 2: Animal Rights and Welfare
By Kenichi Matsui
=View and Discuss documentary film “Cove”=
 8. **From Leadership to Ethical Policies** -May 28
Part 1: Environmental Diplomatic Leaders
By Maki Tsujimura
Part 2: Environmental Ethics as a Means of Wilderness Preservation
By Taiichi Ito
 9. **Water and Ethics** —June 4
Part 1: Issues on Transboundary Aquifer of Groundwater
By Maki Tsujimura
Part 2: Ethical Problems in Environmental Resource Management
By Takahiro Endo
 10. **Part 1: Household Environmental Ethics**—June 11
 Part 2: Environmental Ethics of Indigenous Peoples
By Kenichi Matsui
 11. **Environmental Protection from Community Participatory Approach** —June 18
By Masakazu Aoki
 «Deadline for take-home final exam on June 25»
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