

Environmental ethics: children, animals and the environment

Date	22 April 2020	Time	16:00 – 19:30
Venue	Maddingley Hall Maddingley Cambridge		
Tutor	Dr Alex Carter	Course code	1920NDX315

Director of Academic Centres Dr Corinne Boz

For further information on this course, please contact The Arts and Sciences Team on artscience@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 761322

Tutor biography

Dr Alex Carter is Academic Director for Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies at the Institute of Continuing Education. He is a Bye-Fellow at Fitzwilliam College. Alex was awarded his PhD in Philosophy by the University of Essex in 2015; his thesis explores some of the surprising aspects of Wittgenstein's views concerning freedom and fatalism. Before this, Alex studied Philosophy at the University of Wales, Swansea and the University of Bristol.

Alex's approach to teaching is to encourage students to feel the "pain of the problem" - to make plain the very real ways in which philosophical problems affect our lives. Accordingly, Alex is most keen to offer his support to philosophical projects that, not only inform contemporary debates, but actively affect change. Alex's ongoing research interests include Wittgenstein's later philosophy, the theology of Simone Weil and the philosophy of humour. He is currently researching the relationship between humour and creative practice via the concept of 'serious play'.

Course programme

16:00	Rights discourse: animals and the environment
17:30	Sandwich tea
18:00	What do we owe future generations?
19:30	Finish

Course syllabus

Aims:

1. To better appreciate the role of philosophy in addressing environmental concerns;
2. To evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of rights discourse in ethical discussions;
3. To develop analytic and creative thinking through critical reading and argument.

Content:

We can all agree that the environment ought to be protected. What is less clear is *why*—and the “Why” matters, because it might also indicate “How”. This Earth Day, we will explore some of the main arguments offered by philosophers and ethicists in favour of environmentalism, from non-human rights to the property rights of children.

Presentation of the course:

The course will be delivered through seminars comprised of lectures and short activities.

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Identify key positions in contemporary ethical debates concerning the environment;
2. Take a critical position on the use of rights discourse in environmental and ethical debates;
3. Articulate more clearly their own views on environmental protection and climate change.

Reading and resources list

Listed below are texts that might be of interest should you wish to supplement your learning on the course. Any essential reading is marked with an asterisk *

Author	Title	Publisher and date
Feinberg, J.	The Child's Right to an Open Future in Aiken, W. and LaFollette, H. eds. <i>Whose Child? Children's Rights, Parental Authority, and State Power</i> . 1980: 124-153	Totowa, NJ: Rowman and Littlefield, 1980
O'Neill, O.	Environmental Values, Anthropocentrism and Speciesism in <i>Environmental Values</i> 6, no. 2 (1997): 127–42	White Horse Press, 1997

Website addresses

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-environmental/>

Additional information

Venue

Details of how to find Madingley Hall can be found on our website:
<http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/who-we-are/how-to-find-the-institute>

Refreshments

A sandwich tea will be provided. If you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies and have not already advised us, please inform our Admissions Team on ice.admissions@ice.cam.ac.uk or +44 (0)1223 746262.

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.

Information correct as of: 04 March 2020