Course Syllabus

[✎ **Edit**]

PHI3033 Spring 2022 (W)

Philosophy, Religion, and the Environment

Instructor Contact

- Instructor: Jeanine E. Viau, Ph.D.
- E-mail: **jeanine.viau@ucf.edu (mailto:jeanine.viau@ucf.edu)**
- Office Hours: Via Zoom every Tuesday 1-2pm or by appointment

  Zoom Office Hour Link

  https://ucf.zoom.us/j/96833214434?pwd=MDllSzRhRkxMS3lab3BhaGovOVFadz09 (https://ucf.zoom.us/j/96833214434?pwd=MDllSzRhRkxMS3lab3BhaGovOVFadz09)

  Meeting ID: 968 3321 4434
  Passcode: 268116

Please note:

Tuesday office hours are open to all students on a first-come basis and are for one-on-one guidance. I may be meeting with another student when you login to the Zoom meeting. Please be patient, and I will let you in from the Zoom waiting room in the order that you arrived to the meeting. If the Tuesday hour does not work with your schedule, message me in Canvas or email me to set up an appointment. I strongly encourage you to drop in to office hours or set up an appointment with me at least once this semester so that I can get to know you better.

The official modes of communication for this course are internal Canvas messages and UCF email. The instructor will only respond to external email sent to her @ucf.edu email address (listed above) by students using their @knights.ucf.edu email addresses. Also, please do not expect an immediate response to messages and emails. Forty-eight hours is a reasonable amount of time in which to expect a response.

Course Information

- Course Name: Philosophy, Religion, and the Environment

- Course ID & Section: PHI3033-0W61
- Credit Hours: 3
- Semester/Year: Spring 2022
- Location: Online

Course Description

This course is designed to help students develop sensitivity and critical awareness in their thinking about environmental issues. It revolves around a multicultural treatment of the influence of philosophical and religious views on our understanding of, and relation to, the environment, and explores how different religions and philosophies regard the environment. This course also aims to help students gain an appreciation of the interconnectedness of all life forms on earth, and to understand that the way we value and act in the environment has far-reaching repercussions.

Prerequisites: Junior standing or consent of the instructor.

Course Objectives

- To analyze and describe how various religions and philosophies understand and value the environment
- To articulate one's particular "worldview" in relation to others with the recognition that one's view is part of a particular time and tradition and can be both challenged and enhanced by other views
- To apply various perspectives and strategies in response to pressing ecological and environmental concerns

Required Texts

- Gottlieb, Richard S., ed. *This Sacred Earth: Religion, Nature, Environment.* 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2004.

  https://go.openathens.net/redirector/ucf.edu?url=https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/9780203426982 (https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/? url=https%3A%2F%2Fgo.openathens.net%2Fredirector%2Fucf.edu%3Furl%3Dhttps%3A%2F%2Fwww.taylorfranc

  The digital version of the course textbook is available for free through the UCF Libraries. Accessing the textbook requires that you authenticate (log in) as a UCF student. You are permitted to read the textbook online or download content to read offline. Any unauthorized sharing of the textbook content is in violation of the license agreement between the publisher and university. The license permits access to this textbook for current UCF students, staff, and faculty only. Contact your librarian if you have any questions.

- Silverstein, Shel. *The Giving Tree.* Harper & Row, 1964. Any edition is OK. I suggest visiting one of Orlando's public libraries.
- Throughout the course, there may be additional readings, films, and other materials assigned that are not in the textbooks. These readings will be specified under Modules for each respective week and will be available electronically through Canvas.

Evaluation and Grading

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	100-94%
A-	93-90%
B+	89-86%

B+	89-86%
B	85-80%
C+	79-76%
C	75-70%
D+	69-66%
D	65-60%
F	59 and below

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Discussions	15%
Quizzes	50%
Eco-Fast Log	20%
Group Project	15%
Total	100%

Course Requirements

Readings: There are readings, films, and other materials assigned each week in this course. The assigned materials are listed in each weekly overview and on the weekly readings pages available under **Modules**. Your success in graded discussions and on quizzes will depend on your demonstrating clear understanding and critical engagement with these materials.

Most U.S. higher education institutions use the Carnegie Unit system to track and document student progress to degree completion. At the college level, under the Carnegie definition, one semester credit hour equates to three hours of work per week (1 hour of class lecture, sometimes referred to as "seat time" and 2 hours of student preparation and homework). For a standard 3-credit-hour course, students spend three hours per week in class and should dedicate six hours per week to homework and class prep. Although time is not necessarily the best

and should dedicate *six hours per week* to homework and class prep. Although time is not necessarily the best measure of learning, it is an important factor for success in this course. **As online students, you should dedicate at least 9 hours of time to this course each week**. When students contact me after the first exam asking for guidance in preparation, one of the first questions or suggestions I have is to assess the amount of quality time they are dedicating to the material.

Discussions: You are required to participate in three graded discussions in this course. Your initial posts will respond to a structured prompt. Be sure to answer these prompts in their entirety using direct references to the assigned readings, films, etc. Your initial posts are due by Wednesday at 11:59pm in the week each discussion is assigned. You are also required to respond to at least two classmates in each discussion before Sunday at 11:59pm. Discussions will be graded based on three criteria: 1) the quality of your initial post, 2) the quality of your responses to classmates, and 3) whether or not you meet the participation requirements. Please review the Discussion Guidelines available under **Course Expectations** for more information. Please note that for all written work in this course, you should use Chicago Manual or Turabian style guidelines for source citations and bibliographies.

Quizzes: Quizzes are assigned at the close of each two-week module, including a Syllabus Quiz assigned at the close of the first week. Quizzes are administered through Canvas. Generally quizzes will be 20-25 questions and will combine short answer, multiple-choice, matching, and true/false formats. These are open-book assessments. However, you will only have 45 minutes to complete the quiz once you begin the assessment. Each quiz will be available for 72 hours, from 12am, Friday to 11:59pm, Sunday at the close of each module.

***IMPORTANT -** As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the Syllabus Quiz no later than Friday of the first week of class at 11:59PM. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.**

Eco-Fast: You are required to engage in a one-week (7-day) eco-fast in the first half of the semester and maintain a daily log of your experience. You may choose from three options relevant to philosophical, religious, and social justice oriented responses to ecological challenges: 1) a water fast, 2) a technology fast, or 3) a meat fast. Please see the assignment instructions for detailed guidelines of each option and a template for your daily log entries. Your completed Eco-Fast Log is due via Webcourses by Wednesday, ... at 11:59pm.

Group Project - Annotated Bibliography: You will work in groups to compose an annotated bibliography relevant to the issue that you chose for your fast. I will assign groups after you submit your Eco-Fast Logs. Each group member will be responsible for contributing three sources with annotations - one source for each of three sub-topic headings in the bibliography: 1) Ecological Impact; 2) Social Justice Dimensions; and 3) Philosophical and/or Religious Approaches. Please see the assignment instructions for further details. Annotations for each source should be two paragraphs 1) summarizing the central findings, concepts, or arguments and 2) explaining the source's relevancy to the main topic and sub-topic. Annotations should be well-developed including direct citations and specific details from your sources. Aim for a minimum of 400 words per entry. You will combine your entries into one bibliography for the group adhering to either Turabian or APA style guidelines. All sources must be designated peer-reviewed. You will submit one document for the entire group which is due via Webcourses by Sunday, ... at 11:59pm.

***What is 'peer-reviewed'?** A good indicator of academic rigor is that a source is designated "peer-reviewed." This means that the source has been reviewed and approved for publication by other scholars in the field.

Academic sources include academic journal articles, books (also, book chapters or essays from collected volumes), and/or peer-reviewed reference texts. **Do not use .com resources**! A good place to start is the database list available through the UCF Library website. On the database search page, check the box for "Peer-Reviewed".

Emergencies/Missed Assignments

Emergencies. Make sure that any health or personal emergencies are properly documented, and please contact me **as soon as possible** if difficulties arise during the semester. I want everyone to be successful in this course and will make reasonable accommodations for emergencies.

I recognize and understand the difficult times we are all in. The COVID-19 pandemic impacts us all in many ways, including physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, academically, and professionally. I will work with you on challenges you may be encountering and to provide support to help you succeed. However, please keep in mind that I will hold you accountable, especially in terms of participation and assignments.

Late Work. Ten percent will be deducted for each day an assignment is late. Please pay close attention to the deadlines listed for each assignment in the Course Schedule and Module Instructions. Please be aware that a broken or malfunctioning computer, or the inability to retrieve, produce, or submit assignments from a computer will not be accepted as a valid excuse for late work.

***IMPORTANT -** As of Fall 2014, all faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each semester. In order to document that you began this course, please complete the Syllabus Quiz no later than Friday of the first week of classes at 11:59PM. **Failure to do so will result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.**

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism and cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course). Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at **http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc (http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc)** . According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.

3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work

5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.

6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.

7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, consult the International Center for Academic Integrity (**http://academicintegrity.org** **(http://academicintegrity.org/)**).

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices" (**http://wpacouncil.org/node/9** **(http://wpacouncil.org/node/9)**).

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* (**http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf** **(http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf)**). UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see **http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade** **(http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade)** .

Turnitin

In this course we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. Accordingly, you will be expected to submit all assignments in electronic format. After the assignment is processed, as an instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process, visit **www.turnitin.com** **(http://www.turnitin.com/)** .

Unauthorized Use of Class Materials

There are many fraudulent websites claiming to offer study aids to students but are actually cheat sites. These include (but are not limited to) Quizlet, Course Hero, Chegg Study, and Clutch Prep. UCF does not endorse any of these products. They encourage students to upload course materials, such as test questions, individual assignments, and examples of graded material. Such materials are the intellectual property of instructors, the university, or publishers and may not be distributed without prior authorization. Students who engage in such activity are in violation of academic conduct standards and may face penalties.

Unauthorized Use of Technology for Sharing

If you were in a classroom setting taking a quiz, would you ask the student sitting next to you for an answer to a quiz or test question? The answer should be no. This also applies to graded homework, quizzes, tests, etc. Students are not allowed to use GroupMe, WhatsApp, or any other form of technology to exchange course material associated with a graded assignment, quiz, test, etc. when opened on Webcourses. The completion of graded work in an online course should be considered a formal process: Just because you are not in a formal classroom setting being proctored while taking a quiz or test does not mean that the completion of graded work in an online course should not be treated with integrity.

should not be treated with integrity.

The following is not all inclusive of what is considered academic misconduct. These examples show how the use of technology can be considered academic misconduct and could result in the same penalties as cheating in a face-to-face class:

- Taking a screen shot of an online quiz or test question, posting it to GroupMe or WhatsApp, and asking for assistance is considered academic misconduct.
- Answering an online quiz or test question posted to GroupMe or WhatsApp is considered academic misconduct. Giving advice, assistance, or suggestions on how to complete a question associated with an online assignment, quiz, or test is considered academic misconduct.
- The use of outside assistance from another student or by searching the internet, Googling for answers, use of websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, Chegg Study, etc. is considered academic misconduct.
- Gathering to take an online quiz or test with others and sharing answers in the process is considered academic misconduct.

If a student or group of students are found to be exchanging material associated with a graded assignment, quiz, or test through any form of technology (GroupMe, WhatsApp, etc.), or use outside assistance (Googling answers, use of websites such as Quizlet, Course Hero, Chegg Study, etc.), they could receive anywhere from a zero grade on the exercise to an "F" in the course depending on the act.

Accommodations

It is my goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students, including those with disabilities that may impact learning in this class. If anyone believes the design of this course poses barriers to effectively participating and/or demonstrating learning in this course, please meet with me (with or without a Student Accessibility Services (SAS) accommodation letter) to discuss reasonable options or adjustments. During our discussion, I may suggest the possibility/necessity of your contacting SAS (Ferrell Commons 185; 407-823-2371; sas@ucf.edu) to talk about academic accommodations. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about course design concerns, but it is always best if we can talk at least one week prior to the need for any modifications.

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

In order to learn, we must be open to the views of people different from ourselves. Each and every voice in the classroom is important and brings with it a wealth of experiences, values and beliefs. In this time we share together over the semester, please honor the uniqueness of your fellow classmates, and appreciate the opportunity we have to learn from each other. Please respect your fellow students' opinions and refrain from personal attacks or demeaning comments of any kind.

The University of Central Florida recognizes that our individual differences can deepen our understanding of one another and the world around us, rather than divide us. In this class, people of all ethnicities, genders and gender identities, religions, ages, sexual orientations, abilities, socioeconomic backgrounds, regions, and nationalities are strongly encouraged to share their rich array of perspectives and experiences. If you feel your differences may in some way isolate you from UCF's community or if you have need of any specific accommodations, please speak with the instructor early in the semester about your concerns and what we can do together to help you become an active and engaged member of our class and community.

COVID-19

UCF expects that all members of our campus community who are able to do so get vaccinated, and we expect all members of our campus community to wear masks indoors, [in line with the latest CDC guidelines (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html) . Masks are required in approved clinical or health care settings.

Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality

If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be temporary changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course or going remote for a short time. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any temporary alterations to this course.

COVID-19 and Illness Notification

Students who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 or who test positive must contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place. Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19.

Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness to discuss reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

Course Accessibility and Disability COVID-19 Supplemental Statement

Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact **[sas@ucf.edu (mailto:sas@ucf.edu)](mailto:sas@ucf.edu)** to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

Zoom

This course will use Zoom for office hours. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with Zoom by visiting the **[UCF Zoom Guides (https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/zoom/)](https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/zoom/)** at **https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/zoom/** [(https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/zoom/)](https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/zoom/) . You may choose to use Zoom on your mobile device (phone or tablet).

Things to Know About Zoom:

- You must sign in to my Zoom session using your UCF NID and password.
- Improper classroom behavior is not tolerated within Zoom sessions and may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct.

- You can contact **[Webcourses@UCF Support (https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/)](https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/)** at **https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/** [(https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/)](https://cdl.ucf.edu/support/webcourses/) if you have any technical issues accessing Zoom.

Tech Concerns

The instructor cannot provide technical support. If students are experiencing problems with myUCF or Canvas, they will need to contact the appropriate department. The Computer Services & Telecommunications Service Desk can be reached at (407) 823-5117, telecom@ucf.edu, and OTC 550 (Main Campus).

Even though computers and word processing software are marvelous time and energy-saving tools, they can and do cause problems from time to time. Please be aware that a broken or malfunctioning computer, or the inability to retrieve, produce, or submit assignments from a computer will not be accepted as a valid excuse for late work. It is advised that students make sure their work is saved appropriately, and in more than one location (such as a USB flash drive, external hard drive, CD/DVD, online storage, or even emailing a copy to oneself).

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Fri Jan 14, 2022	📝 **Syllabus Quiz** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1398010/assignments/7387725)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Jan 19, 2022	📝 **Discussion 1** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1398010/assignments/7387730)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 30, 2022	📝 **Quiz 1** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1398010/assignments/7387723)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 13, 2022	📝 **Quiz 2** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1398010/assignments/7387726)	due by 11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Wed Feb 16, 2022	📝 **Discussion 2** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1398010/assignments/7387731)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 24, 2022	📝 **Quiz 3 Review Discussion** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1398010/assignments/7387729)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 27, 2022	📝 **Quiz 3** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1398010/assignments/7387722)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 2, 2022	📝 **Eco-Fast Assignment** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1398010/assignments/7387733)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 20, 2022	📝 **Quiz 4** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1398010/assignments/7387724)	due by 11:59pm
Wed Mar 23, 2022	📝 **Discussion 3** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1398010/assignments/7387732)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 3, 2022	📝 **Quiz 5** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1398010/assignments/7387727)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 17, 2022	📝 **Quiz 6** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1398010/assignments/7387728)	due by 11:59pm
Mon Apr 25, 2022	📝 **Group Project - Annotated Bibliography** (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1398010/assignments/7387734)	due by 11:59pm