





Philosophy (PHIL) 375

Philosophy of the Environment (Revision 2)

Status:	Replaced with new revision, see the course listing  for the current revision 
Delivery mode:	Individualized study online 
Credits:	3
Areas of study:	Arts or Humanities
Prerequisites:	None, but a junior-level philosophy course or a course in critical thinking is highly recommended.
Precluded:	None
Challenge:	PHIL 375 has a challenge for credit option.
Faculty:	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 

Overview

Philosophy 375 addresses core issues in philosophy of the environment and environmental ethics. The course is designed to familiarize students with issues concerning world view (cosmology), value conflicts, epistemology (ways of knowing) and principles involved in conflicts over our relationship with the environment. Policy issues such as sustainability and conservation are addressed in this light. Central issues addressed are anthropocentrism vs. ecocentrism, the intrinsic vs. the instrumental value of the environment, historical shifts and cross-cultural tensions involving world view, to name a few. The breadth of issues examined is indicative of the introductory nature of the course. But, as a senior-level course, a certain degree of understanding argument structures and principles and an ability to develop arguments is expected; the pedagogical focus is on developing principled arguments in support of a position on some issue addressed in the course. Students are strongly advised to take a junior-level philosophy course before registering in *Philosophy 375*.

Outline


- Unit 1: Introduction
- Unit 2: World Views: Historical-Ptolemaic Universe and Greco-Christian Cosmology
- Unit 3: World Views: Modern
- Unit 4: World Views: Alternative and Ecological
- Unit 5: Classical Anthropocentrism
- Unit 6: Ecocentrism: Intrinsic Value, Deep Ecology, Ecofeminism, Social Ecology
- Unit 7: Value Theory: Ethical Obligations?
- Unit 8: Sustainable Development and Sustainability

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for PHIL 375, you must submit all assignments and achieve a composite course grade of at least **D (50 percent)** . The weighting of the

composite grade is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1: General Theme	accept/reject
Assignment 2: Five Journal Entries	20%
Assignment 3: Position Paper	40%
Assignment 4: Case Study	40%
Total	100%

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#) .


Materials

Physical course materials

The following course materials are included in a course package that will be shipped to your home prior to your course's start date:

Morito, Bruce. 2002. *Thinking Ecologically: Environmental Thought, Values and Policy*. Halifax, NS: Fernwood Books.

You will access all other course materials online.

Before registering in the individualized study, online version of *Philosophy 375*, students should ensure that they have the minimum **computer hardware and software required** . In addition to the minimum requirements listed there, students must have a Windows 98® or later operating system, and suitable word-processing software. Students may also access the online version of this course using a Macintosh® platform. The minimum requirements are a Power Macintosh® with a Mac OS 9® or later operating system, an Internet connection and suitable word-processing software.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** [↗](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for the PHIL 375 challenge registration, you must achieve an overall grade of at least **D (50 percent)** [↗](#).

Activity	Weight
Essay 1	60%
Essay 2	40%
Total	100%

[📄](#) **Challenge for credit course registration form**

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) [↗](#)
- › [Program planning](#) [↗](#)
- › [Request assistance](#) [↗](#)
- › [Support services](#) [↗](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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View **previous revision** 
