

Environmental Ethics 2015/16

Dr. David J. Gunkel

Week 1

Objective

To introduce students to the relatively new field of Environmental Ethics and provide an overview of the basic philosophical issues/problems that define the field, the influential individuals and organizations involved in its development, and the ground-breaking publications and texts that comprise its literature.

Readings

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy – Environmental Ethics

Questions

- 1) Why do you think the idea of environmental ethics is a late 20th century phenomena? Why, in other words, is there no “environmental ethics” in the “great works” of moral philosophy in the West (Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, Immanuel Kant, G.E. Moore, etc.)?
- 2) What does this historical fact say about the world view of Western (and essentially European) philosophy? What does this say about our conceptualization of ethics? And how and why has our thinking on this issue altered over time?