

Study Guide for Environmental Philosophy (Spring 2020)

— Exam 3: Religion, The Land Ethic and Environmental Justice —

In preparing your answers for these questions, remember that **I'm not interested in uninformed opinions**. Please develop your answers in the context of the readings, based on arguments and evidence. The exam will involve a set of essay questions (perhaps six or so) drawn from the following questions (in some combination or other, and probably not *verbatim*). You will need to write just **three essays**.

As I mentioned in class, you will be allowed to consult your notes and readings. A strong essay will incorporate many ideas, examples, arguments, and facts from the readings.

The exam will take place on Canvas, where you'll need to type your answers, so you will want to use a device with a keyboard. (If you don't have a keyboard and computer, then feel free to neatly write out your answers, in good dark ink on a few sheets of paper, take photos of the pages, and email them to me at ssnaragon@manchester.edu.)

You will have two hours to type the exam, and I'm happy to make the exam available from Monday midnight (May 11) to Wednesday midnight (May 13). If anyone needs another window for taking the exam, I can probably do that – just let me know soon. Also, if you have special accommodations for exam time, please remind me so that I can make that change as well.

Religion, the Land Ethic, and Beyond

1. What features of Christianity does White find to be “anti-environmental”? Are there others? How might one respond to White's criticisms? Can an environmental ethic be found in the Hebrew bible? Is a biocentric ethic compatible with a belief in a transcendent (=beyond the physical universe) God?
2. What is the difference between conservation and preservation? Who were Pinchot and Muir?
3. Be able to describe Leopold's “Land Ethic”. In what sense does he view it as “moral progress” over traditional ethics? What is his account of ethics in general? How could you motivate someone to adopt Leopold's land ethic?
4. How does the Land Ethic compare with an animal rights or animal liberation orientation? (For instance, how would Peter Singer, Tom Regan, and Aldo Leopold deal with the over-population of white-tailed deer in Indiana?)
5. What is moral extensionism? Be able to describe and give examples of moral holism, moral atomism, anthropocentrism, and biocentrism. How do these positions intersect with the concepts of moral standing and moral significance?
6. What is the difference between shallow and deep ecology? How do these compare with Leopold's Land Ethic?
7. Do individuals have intrinsic value in deep ecology? What do deep ecologists mean by the slogan: “No one is saved until we are all saved”? Who is included in this “we”? What does Arne Naess mean by “self realization” and the “ecological self”?
8. What is social ecology, according to Bookchin, and how is it contrasted with deep ecology? What problems does Bookchin find with deep ecology?

Environmental Justice

9. What is environmental racism? Be able to give examples. What are the interests and values at stake?
10. What are LULUs? What are some explanations for where they are located, and where does Wenz think they should be located?
11. Explain and evaluate Guha's analysis and critique of deep ecology.
12. Why does Maria Mies reject the idea of 3rd and 4th world countries “catching-up” with more “developed” nations? Be able to discuss and evaluate her understanding of colonialism.

Planning for our Future

13. Be thinking about how you would envision an environmentally just and sustainable community or society. What could you do to support or help us move toward such a society? What are the most pressing environmental challenges that we need to solve and how might we do this?