

# NRM F303X, Environmental Ethics and Actions Course Syllabus, Spring Semester 2021

FXA 9:45-11:15 AM Tuesdays & Thursdays, Zoom  
FXB 2:00-3:30 PM Tuesdays & Thursdays, Zoom

David Valentine, Instructor  
Professor of Forest Soils  
309 O'Neill Building

Phone: 4747614  
Email: dvalentine@alaska.edu

COVID-19 Statement: Students should keep up-to-date on the university's policies, practices, and mandates related to COVID by regularly checking this website: <https://sites.google.com/alaska.edu/coronavirus/uas/students?authuser=David>. Further, students are expected to adhere to the university's policies, practices, and mandates and are subject to disciplinary actions if they do not comply.

Office Hours: To stem the spread of COVID, I am only available to meet virtually (Zoom, telephone, etc.). Please use my contact information to schedule time with me.

## Textbooks:

DesJardins, Joseph R. 2013. Environmental Ethics: An introduction to environmental philosophy, 5th edition. Wadsworth, Boston, MA. 282 p.

Brown, Marvin T. 2003. The Ethical Process: An approach to disagreements and controversial issues, 3rd edition. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ. 88 p.

Additional readings will be posted on the course Blackboard site.

Top Hat: In order to maximize the quality of your online learning experience, I have decided to use Top Hat Pro ([www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com)) to improve engagement and learning. All students will be required to register for a Top Hat account by the beginning of the 2nd week of class (i.e., January 19). You will be able to submit answers to class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message.

Subscriptions to purchase: Top Hat Pro

For instructions on how to create a Top Hat account and enrol in our Top Hat Pro course, please refer to one of the following resources:

- " 1) The invitation sent to your school email address OR
- " 2) Consult Top Hat's Getting Started Guide OR
- " 3) Get started with this 8 minute video walkthrough



- ” to gain appreciation of the method by which these values influence practical activity of different peoples.
- ” to gain an understanding of the differences in value systems, both within the Western tradition and between it and non-Western cultures.
- ” to gain an understanding of the dilemmas of moral choice affecting individuals in complex societies.

Blackboard: This course will make extensive use of Blackboard (<http://classes.alaska.edu>) for archiving class notes and reading materials, submitting assignments, taking quizzes, retrieving grades, and updating your course progress. Please check it regularly for announcements and updates, paying particular attention to the Assignments link as I update it week by week to help you keep track of readings and assignments.

Top Hat: As indicated above, we will use Top Hat primarily for in class work. Depending on how well i

for whatever reason, will incur a ~4 point penalty from the points available for your class participation grade.

Class sessions are primarily an opportunity to discuss the assigned readings in a thoughtful, informed manner. It is only through such dialogue that ideas can be fruitfully explored. The terms "informed" and "thoughtful" are emphasized. To this end, it will be imperative that students read and, equally important, ponder the assigned reading material prior to each class. To guide (coerce) you to do this, I will employ two strategies. First, I will at times randomly call on students to offer their thoughts on or analysis of the assigned readings. Beginning in about the 3<sup>d</sup> week, I will ask students to introduce and summarize each of the readings for class in order to get discussion going. Together with your general engagement in class discussions, these will comprise the engagement quality of your class participation grade.

Example: If you miss four classes and I evaluate the quality of your engagement in class as a mid "B", your class participation grade would be  $(100 - 8) * 85\% = 78/100$  points.

I reserve the right to exercise judgment in final grading in light of individual student