

Philosophy 504: Wildness, Culture, Wilderness

Office hours

- Tuesday 2:00-3:30 and Tuesday 6:00---
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We can't do environmental ethics outside the framework and traditions of philosophical ethics in general. This course approach – to identify the conceptual grounds for environmental ethics. Environmental ethics is not therefore simply finding rules for relating with nature, though rules are to be found. Centrally it takes up the challenge to find the grounds for any such rules. Here the focus will be on wildness, culture's relation to it, and thus to wilderness. We will read and discuss the texts below, in an order to be decided as we go along

Required work:

- A short paper (one page) every week
- A somewhat longer paper mid-term
- A final paper

Course Motto: "Everything is what it is, and not the other thing."
Bishop Butler

Required Texts:

- Wittgenstein: "On Certainty"
- Joseph Conrad: "Typhoon", "Heart of Darkness"
- Gary Snyder: "Turtle Island", "The Practice of the Wild"
- Roger Dunsmore: "Aiming at Aristotle", "Trud and Bloat" from *Earth's Mind*
- Thoreau: "Walking"
- Heidegger: "Memorial Address"
- Borgmann: "Wilderness in the age of Cyberspace..."
- Birch: "Universal Consideration"
- Dogen: "Mountains and Rivers Sutra"

Items to think about:

- Socratic knowledge: "It goes without saying that..."
(What goes without saying?)