

COURSE SYLLABUS

PHILOSOPHY 5960-002 - ALDO LEOPOLD AND THE LAND ETHIC

REGENTS PROFESSOR J. BAIRD CALLICOTT, PH.D.

Chair's Office, EESAT, Suite 225. Office Hours: **MW 3:30-5:00** and by appointment

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OBJECTIVE

To explore the seminal environmental philosophy of Aldo Leopold

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac and Sketches Here and There* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1949) ASCA
2. Aldo Leopold, (J. Baird Callicott and Eric T. Freyfogle, eds.) *For the Health of the Land: Previously Unpublished Essays and Other Writings* (Washington: Island Press) FHL
3. Susan L. Flader and J. Baird Callicott, eds., *The River of the Mother of God and Other Essays by Aldo Leopold* (University of Wisconsin Press 1991) RMG
4. Curt Meine, *Aldo Leopold: His Life and Work* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1988) ALLW
5. J. Baird Callicott, ed., *Companion to A Sand County Almanac: Interpretive and Critical Essays* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1987) CSC

OPTIONAL TEXTS

1. Aldo Leopold, *Game Management* (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1933/1986)
2. Aldo Leopold, (Luna B. Leopold, ed.) *Round River: From the Journals of Aldo Leopold* (Oxford University Press 1953/1993)
3. Susan L. Flader, *Thinking Like a Mountain: Aldo Leopold and the Evolution of an Ecological Attitude toward Deer, Wolves, and Forests* (University of Wisconsin Press 1974/1994)
4. J. Baird Callicott, *In Defense of the Land: Essays in Environmental Philosophy* (Albany: State University of Wisconsin Press, 1989)
5. J. Baird Callicott, *Beyond the Land Ethic: More Essays in Environmental Philosophy* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1999).

6. David E. Brown and Neil B. Carmony, eds., *Aldo Leopold's Southwest: Twenty-Six Early Writings by the Author of A Sand County Almanac* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1990).

7, Julianne Lutz Newton, *Aldo Leopold's Odyssey: Rediscovering the Author of A Sand County Almanac* (Washington: Island Press, 2006)

REQUIREMENTS

1. Regular attendance, participation in seminar discussion.
2. Weekly reading quiz
3. Diligent and responsible performance as a member of a research team and contribution to a jointly authored paper to be submitted for publication.

RESEARCH TEAMS

Team 1: What does Aldo Leopold mean by “beauty”? To be published in *Environmental Ethics*.

Team 2: Was Aldo Leopold a Pragmatist?: Against Bryan Norton. To be published in *Environmental Values*.

Team 3: Leopold and Levinas: The Other. To be published in *Environmental Philosophy*.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(1) Aug 26: Introduction to course and texts

(2) Sept 2: Understanding *A Sand County Almanac*. **Read:** ASCA Part I and ½ of Part II; pp. vii-116; CSC, pp. 91- 127 (Ribbens,Tallmadge). **Report:** Team 1

(3) Sept 9: Understanding *A Sand County Almanac*. **Read:** ASCA 2nd ½ of Part II and Part III; pp. 117-226; CSC, pp. 128-153 (Fritzell) and 172-217 (Meine, Callicott). **Report:** Team 2

(4) Sept 16: The making of a naturalist/conservationist. **Read:** *ALLW*, chs.1-5; *RMG*, pp. 33-39. **Report:** Team 3.

(5) Sept 23: The Southwest, part 1. **Read:** *ALLW*, chs. 6-8; *RMG*, pp. 41-77 and 82-85. **Report:** Team 1

(6) Sept 30: The Southwest , part 2. **Read:** *ALLW*, chs. 9-11; *RMG* pp. 98-122. **Report:** Team 2.

(7) Oct 7: The earth ethic. **Read:** *RMG*, 86-97; Bryan G. Norton, “The Constancy of Leopold’s Land Ethic” and excerpts from *Sustainability* (photocopied); J. Baird Callicott, “6. The Earth Ethic: A Critical Account of Its Philosophical Foundations” (photocopied). **Report:** Team 3

(8) Oct 14: The game manager. **Read:** *ALLW*, chs.12-15; *RMG*, pp. 150-180. **Report:** Team 1

(9) Oct 21: Beyond game management. **Read:** *ALLW* chs.17-18; Aldo Leopold, “Naturschutz in Germany” and “Deer and Dauerwald” (photocopied); *RMG* pp., 181-225. **Report:** Team 2

(10) Oct 28: Wilderness. **Read:** *ALLW*, ch. 16; *RMG* pp., 78-81, 123-142, 226-244, and 287-294; Aldo Leopold, “A Plea for Wilderness Hunting Grounds,” George M. Wright, “Big Game of Our National Parks,” Victor E. Shelford, “The Preservation of Natural Biotic Communities” and “Conservation versus Preservation,” and Julianne Lutz Warren, “Science, Recreation, and Leopold’s Quest for a Durable Scale,” J. Baird Callicott, “What ‘Wilderness’ in Frontier Ecosystems” (photocopied). **Report:** Team 3

(11) Nov 4: Political and metaphysical reflections. **Read:** *RMG*, pp. 143-147, 245-286, 295-346; J. Baird Callicott, “The Metaphysical Implications of Ecology.” **Report:** Team 1

(12) Nov 11: land health. **Read:** *FHL*, pp. 3-81; *ALLW*, chs. 19-21. **Report:** Team 2

(13) Nov18: land health continued. **Read:** *FHL*, pp. 83-226. **Report:** Team 3

(14) Nov 25: Thanksgiving break. No class

(15) Dec 2: Beyond the land ethic **Read:** Worster, “The Ecology of Order and Chaos”; Pickett and Ostfeld, “The Shifting Paradigm in Ecology”; Callicott, “Do Deconstructive Ecology and Sociobiology Undermine Leopold’s Land Ethic?” and “From the Balance of Nature to the Flux of Nature: The Leopold Land Ethic in a Time of Change” (all photocopied).

(16) Dec 9: Exam week. **Research reports:** Teams 1, 2, and 3.