PHILOSOPHY 5450 - Philosophy of Ecology

PROFESSOR J. BAIRD CALLICOTT, PH.D.
Office Hours: Mon./Tues. 3:30 - 5:00 and by appointment
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OBJECTIVE
To explore the history of ideas in ecology and their implications for environmental ethics

TEXTS
5. Miscellaneous photocopied material.

REQUIREMENTS
1. (30%) Weekly reading quiz.
2. (30%) Seminar presentation / lead discussion; participation in class discussion
3. (40%) Term paper
   proposal due March 22.
   paper due May 3, Fifteen -20 pages (double spaced, 12 pt font).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
January 18. Introduction to course and texts.
February 1. The superorganism paradigm in ecology. Read: McIntosh, Background of Ecology, ch. 3 (pp. 69 - 106); Hagen, Entangled Bank, chs. 1-3 (1-49); Real and Brown, Foundations of Ecology, Papers 1 and 3, by Forbes (pp. 14-27) and Clements (pp. 59-97), respectively.
February 15. The community paradigm in ecology. Read: Charles Elton, Animal Ecology, Author's Prefaces, chs. I, V, VI, VIII (photocopied); Hagen, Entangled Bank, ch. 4 (pp. 50-77); McIntosh, Background of Ecology, chs. 4-5 (pp.107-192).
February 22. The land ethic. Read: Charles Darwin, Descent of Man, ch. 4 (photocopied); Aldo Leopold, “The Conservation Ethic” and “The Land Ethic” (photocopied); J. B. Callicott, “Holistic Environmental Ethics and the Problem of Ecofascism” (photocopied)
March 1. The ecosystem paradigm in ecology. Read: Real and Brown, Foundations of Ecology, Papers 15 and 7 (in that order) by A. G. Tansley (pp. 318-341) and R. L. Lindeman


March 29. Evolutionary Ecology and Conservation Biology. **Read:** Hagen, *Entangled Bank*, Chs 8, 9, and Epilogue (pp. 146-197); E. O. Wilson, “The Biological Diversity Crisis” (photocopied); Michael Soulé, “What is Conservation Biology?” (photocopied); Holmes Rolston III “Duties to Endangered Species” (photocopied); J. B. Callicott, “Conservation Values and Ethics” (photocopied).


April 12. Dynamism. **Read:** Real and Brown, *Foundations of Ecology*, Paper 30 by Margaret B. Davis (pp.650-663); Linda Brubaker, “Vegetation History and Anticipating Future Vegetation Change” (photocopied); Botkin, *Discordant Harmonies*.

