



International Project Week  
HOCHSCHULE NORDHAUSEN

## 25<sup>th</sup> International Project Week 2023 08<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**Lecturer:** Corinna Casi

**University/Company:** Lapin yliopisto

**Country:** Italy

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### Introduction to Environmental Ethics

#### **Content:**

The course will propose an overview on the history of Environmental Ethics: what is ethics, what is environment, what was before Environmental Ethics, how and why Environmental Ethics emerged as an academic field? Why is ethics important in a modern world and why should ethics be part of policy-making processes? In an attempt to answer these questions, ethical concepts - such as intrinsic and instrumental value, anthropocentrism and ecocentrism - together with different types of Environmental Ethics theories - such as Deep Ecology, Ecofeminism, Land Ethics, Utilitarianism, Gaia Theory, Nature conservation movement and Animal Rights - will be introduced and discussed. The applicability of different ethical theories will be tested in light of selected case studies about natural disasters and environmental accidents.

#### **Methods:**

The course is divided in lectures (60%) & other activities (40%). These activities include in-class group and pair work, the screening of scenes from documentaries, reading of newspaper articles, participatory debates and students' presentations. Group and individual tasks (at home and in class), as well as and final poster presentation on the last day of IPW, have the aim to acquaint the students with ethical concepts, theories, and train them to apply those theories to environmental cases.

#### **Competences and skills to be acquired:**

This course attempts to give students the analytical apparatus to analyze critically, the role played by the natural environment in the life of humans and other living species. The course makes students familiar with basic concepts and theories of Environmental Ethics, fostering the understanding on how human factors weigh and carry responsibility on environmental problems. Students will be trained to see different perspectives, applying moral theories and drawing ethical conclusions from real life cases in recent news. This enables the students to confront their opinions in class debates, better understand themselves and colleagues, and to improve discussion, argumentation and group work skills.

**Prerequisites:**

No prerequisites needed (previous study in philosophy, ethics and social sciences are helpful)

**Language of instruction:**

English