

# RADICAL ENVIRONMENTALISM

Dr. Stephanie Kaza, Professor  
appts x64055, office hrs Tues/Wed 2:30-4:30  
The Bittersweet, 153 So. Prospect  
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Tues/Thur 12:30-1:45  
L/L Room A162

## Course Purpose

- 1) to identify differences among various radical environmental philosophies and movements;
- 2) to understand the process of consciousness-raising at the root of radical positions;
- 3) to gain skill in articulating ethical positions on environmental issues from radical perspectives;
- 4) to gain experience in action research, activist strategies, and group dynamics involved in environmental activism.

## Course Texts

DEVALL      Devall, Bill. 1988. Simple in Means, Rich in Ends. Salt Lake City: Gibbs Smith  
SINGER      Singer, Peter. 1990. Animal Liberation. New York: Avon Books.  
TOKAR      Tokar, Brian. 1997. Earth For Sale. Boston: South End Press.  
READER      Selected articles. Available for purchase at the Bittersweet.

## Course Outline

## Assignments

JAN	18	Tues	Introduction: What is Radical?	
	20	Thur	Limits to Mainstream Environmentalism	TOKAR ch 1
	25	Tues	Challenging Corporate Environmentalism & Globalization: Emerging Movements	TOKAR ch 2-3
	27	Thur	Consumerism Action Research: Life Cycle Analysis projects	TOKAR ch 5, Introduction
FEB	1	Tues	Animal Rights: Research Issues	SINGER ch 1-2
	3	Thur	Factory Farming	SINGER ch 3
	8	Tues	Vegetarianism as a Radical Movement	SINGER ch 4
	10	Thur	Deep Ecology Philosophy	DEVALL ch 1-2
	15	Tues	Deep Ecology Activism Wildlands Project, Wild Earth guest speaker	DEVALL ch 5, Epilogue <b>DUE:</b> Take-Home Exam #1
	17	Thur	Bioregionalism/Inhabiting Place	DEVALL ch 6; READER: Dodge, Snyder
	22	Tues	New Forest Activism	TOKAR ch 4, 7
	24	Thur	Voluntary Simplicity; Anti-Consumerism Movement	DEVALL ch 4; READER: Mies
	29	Tues	Life Cycle Project presentations	<b>DUE:</b> Life Cycle Analysis
MAR	2	Thur	Presentations, cont'd	

	7	Tues	Town Meeting Day/No Class	READER: Warren, Merchant, King
	9	Thur	Ecofeminist Philosophy	READER: Krauss, Nelson
	14	Tues	Ecofeminist Activism guest speaker to be announced	<b>DUE:</b> Take-home Exam #2
	16	Thur	Internat'l Women's Resistance	READER: Lorentzen
	21-23		Spring Break	
	28	Tues	Advocacy projects: activism strategies	
	30	Thur	Liberatory Paradigms: Comparing the movements	TOKAR ch 9; READER: Plumwood
APRIL	4	Tues	Third World Critique of Radical Environmentalism	READER: Guha
	6	Thur	Environmental Racism	TOKAR ch 6; READER: Bullard
	11	Tues	Eco-justice Activism	READER: LaDuke, Miller, Moses
	13	Thur	Eco-justice Activism guest speaker to be announced	READER: Kiefer & Benjamin
	18	Tues	Safe Food and the Anti-Biotechnology Movement Dawkins	<b>DUE:</b> Feasibility Report READER: Kimbrell,
	20	Thur	Safe Food Activism: guest speaker	READER: Fowler, Hobbelink
	22	Sat	EARTH DAY	
	25	Tues	Advocacy Project Presentations	<b>DUE:</b> Advocacy Projects
	27	Thur	Presentations cont'd	
MAY	2	Tues	The Future of Radical Environmentalism Course Review, Closing	TOKAR ch 10
	9	Tues		<b>DUE:</b> Final Exam 4:30 at the Bittersweet

**Attendance Policy:** You are expected to attend every class session; not only is this university policy but it is the singlemost important element in forming a stable and satisfying learning community. Only excused absences are permitted; your attendance grade will drop one letter for each unexcused absence (please note: this includes the class before spring break). Excused absences are granted through contact with the instructor by phone or email. This penalty is an incentive to reinforce the need for full commitment from each individual to creating and supporting the class learning community.

## ENVS 180 Assignments

**Reading:** Some reading will be covered through lecture format, but most will be reviewed through class discussion. Please come to class prepared to speak to the main points of the assigned material. The reading is evocative and challenging, so be ready to articulate your point of view! Exams will cover the readings.

**Group Work:** You have two projects in which you work with others in a small group. This requires outside meeting time in addition to time provided in class. Write-up of these projects will be minimal; oral presentations will be used to explain your process and results. Please plan your presentations carefully to use the time well and involve all group members.

**Exams:** Take-home exams are an opportunity for you to integrate the points made by various authors. You may use any notes, readings, outside references, and consulting with your classmates in preparation for the exam. Group potlucks are especially useful in preparing for exams. However, when you sit down to write your paper, please do this on your own.

### Guidelines for Written Work:

1) All written work should be completed on a word processing program and printed out in either "Faster" or "Best" settings, or on a laser printer. Do not hand in work printed at the "Draft" setting or handwritten. These are difficult to read. Double-space your papers, allowing normal 1.25" margins for comments. Number your pages, and staple all pages together for safety. Consider the visual presentation of your work; check for computer errors and broken lines or unformatted paragraphs and strange hyphenation. My good impression of your work is to your benefit.

2) Spellcheck and proofread your work before handing it in. Errors should be minimal. Learn how to use the spellcheck programs on the computers.

3) Use inclusive language; i.e. be conscious of your use of gender pronouns and referents. Use "people" or "humankind" instead of "man", and "he or she" or "they" instead of simply "he".

4) Be honest. Use your own words, and express your own thoughts. Don't fall into the habit of using others' words without giving them proper credit. Avoid long quotes; work to express your understanding of an author's ideas in your own words.

5) Late work: You are expected to turn work in on time, i.e. in class on the day it is due. NOTE: Late work is subject to a penalty of one full grade per day late. This is to minimize procrastination and lost papers. Late work falls out of the flow across my desk and suffers from lack of attention. I will read all the papers at once after they are turned in and try to return them to you within 1-2 weeks.

6) At the top of all your papers, please be sure to give your name, college, and date. You do not need to use extra paper for a cover sheet. Printing on both sides of the page is fine, if your computer can do this. You may also use recycled or re-used paper; just mark out the side you don't want me to read.

**Grading:**

There are three exams, two projects, and two group oral presentations for a total of 500 pts. In order of due dates, these are:

Take-Home Exam #1	points 50	due February 15th
Life Cycle Analysis (include oral presentation)	100	due February 29th
Take-Home Exam #2	100	due March 14th
Env Advocacy Projects (includes oral presentation)	100	due April 25th
Final Take-Home Exam	100	due May 9th
Class Participation (includes web site reports)	<u>50</u>	
TOTAL	500	

**Grading Philosophy:** I do not believe that grades are central to the learning experience. However, given the limitations of grades, I will do my best to be fair, open, honest, and communicative about the grading process. This does not mean I will negotiate every grade you question. It means I will try to be clear about the assignments and criteria for excellent work and give you good feedback on your papers.

NOTE: If you are in trouble and falling behind for any reason, please come in and talk to me. I cannot help you catch up if I do not know you're swamped!

**Cooperative Learning:**

Almost all successful environmental work is done in cooperative teams and through joint efforts. You will be working closely with others in the class on your assignments, sharing resources and ideas and helping each other with direction, focus, and clarity. Please make an effort to work effectively in a group. This means being on time to meetings, contributing your share of effort, participating fully in shaping the group dynamic. The more you learn with each other, the more capable you will be of undertaking effective group environmental advocacy work in the future.