



Please pay special attention to the fact that you are enrolled in a 3 credit, 16 week course that runs over 6 weeks. The workload might seem extreme if you do not keep this in mind.

## Instructors

Jason Johnstone-Yellin, Lecturer  
Department of Philosophy  
Morrill Hall, Rm. 409  
Tel: 208-885-7107  
email: [jasonjy@uidaho.edu](mailto:jasonjy@uidaho.edu)

Christopher Fuchsteiner, Teaching Assistant  
email: [cfuchsteiner@vandals.uidaho.edu](mailto:cfuchsteiner@vandals.uidaho.edu)

## Course Overview & Structure

The first part of this course presents an introduction to, and an overview of, the basic theories in environmental philosophy and ethics. Essentially, each theory explores the question: what sorts of things should be included in the moral community (i.e., which sort of things have direct moral standing, deserve ethical consideration, command our respect) and why? The second part of the course examines current environmental concerns.

If you are new to philosophy please note that each piece of writing you read in this course presents not only the authors' beliefs or conclusions about what counts ethically, or what ought to be considered an environmental problem, but also the reasoning behind those conclusions. That is to say, each author presents an argument where specific premises build to a particular conclusion. Given that you will be writing in a philosophical mode throughout the course, it is wise to keep this in mind when assessing the readings, when participating in online discussions, and when working on your own writing.

Even though this is an online course it is very structured and features daily assignments (either reading, writing, or both). Whether you are here in Moscow this summer, elsewhere in the United States, or somewhere abroad, **it is critical that you are prepared and ready to work on this class every weekday for the next six weeks.** As with any campus-based summer course, this course requires a far heavier daily focus and more intense study than the standard semester-long course where study of the material is spread over sixteen weeks, rather than just six.

Finally, you must have access to a good, reliable internet connection. This course is entirely web-based (on [Blackboard](#)). You are expected to participate in online threaded group discussions and to submit written work on a regular and timely basis over the six weeks of the course. Every assignment -- reading or writing -- is time-sensitive. If you are located outside the Pacific Time Zone you will need to account for the time difference. *Blackboard* will not accept late submissions. In order to make the process fair for everyone, I will not make exceptions nor will I accept emailed submissions. Therefore, it is critical that you have a reliable daily internet connection. If your internet connection is wobbly, take that into account and give yourself extra time instead of submitting assignments at the last minute.