Welcome to environmental ethics. There are many approaches to teaching ethics. Ethics with regard to our environment narrows the spectrum somewhat, by focusing on ethical human behavior regarding the environment. After defining ethics and environmental ethics, we will examine the most important collection of works with regard to modern environmental ethics. That is Aldo Leopold’s *A Sand County Almanac*. It is a book of dichotomies, revealing the ethical views of a man born in the nineteenth century, and constantly coming to grips with the twentieth century. After looking at his work, we will drop back in time to trace the origins of his inspirations. Therefore, we will examine at ancient humans and their relations with their environment. After examining certain ethical behaviors with the Hebrews, Greeks, Romans, early Christians, and various other cultures, we will advance quickly to the Industrial Revolution and beyond to find more influences in Leopold’s land ethic.

The second half of ES 188 explores the modern issues of environmental ethics. We will assess the broadening of the land ethic by urbanites, who, although estranged from the natural world, developed a unique set of environmental ethics. We will examine how modern environmental ethics attempts to speak for animals, the entire planet, and the future. With the course novel, *A Friend of the Earth*, we will look at many of the modern manifestations of environmental ethics from the perspective of the future, past, and present. In addition to land and planetary ethics, we will also periodically examine the ethical treatment of animals.

**EXAMS AND GRADING PERCENTAGES**

There will be two in-class midterms (no final exam). The exams will cover the material listed above in the two halves of the class. The two midterms are valued at 35 percent each. The section grade is valued at 30 percent.

**DISCUSSION SECTIONS**

Discussion sections are obviously an important part of the class. Attendance at discussion sections is required. A great deal of the course information will be expanded upon in sections, as well as subjects that go beyond the scope of the lectures.
BOOKS

ES 188 Reader available at SBPrinters in the UCEN (Sections correspond to week’s reading)
Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac* (begin week one; finish week five)
T.C. Boyle, *A Friend of the Earth* (begin week six; finish week ten)

**SCHEDULE**

**WEEK ONE**
(>January 11<) Introduction
(>January 13<) Defining Ethics

**WEEK TWO**
(>January 18<) Aldo Leopold and the Land Ethic
(>January 20<) Leopold and the Ancients

**WEEK THREE**
(>January 25<) Leopold and the Greeks
(>January 27<) Greek and Roman Ethics: Perceptions and Practice

**WEEK FOUR**
(>February 1<) Medieval Environmental Ethics
(>February 3<) Native American Ethics

**WEEK FIVE**
(>February 8<) Leopold and Biocentrism and Anthropocentrism
(>February 10<) Leopold and Anthropocentrism

**WEEK SIX**
(>February 15<) **Midterm 1 in class**
(>February 17<) Case Study in Environmental Ethics: Easter Island

**WEEK SEVEN**
(>February 22<) Ethical Treatment of Animals (Does nature have rights?)
(>February 24<) Animal Rights and Activism

**WEEK EIGHT**
(>March 1<) Speaking for the Planet I
(>March 3<) Speaking for the Planet II

**WEEK NINE**
(>March 8<) Speaking for the Planet III
(>March 10<) Deep Ecology and Eco-feminism

**WEEK TEN**
(>March 15<) Speaking for Future Generations
(>March 17<) Conclusions and Observations

**Midterm 2:** Tuesday, March 21, 12-2pm, in Buchanan 1920

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES DURING CLASS. PLEASE TURN OFF AND STOW ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES DURING EXAMS.