PROPOSAL FOR AN UPPER DIVISION CLUSTER COURSE

Name of faculty member: Kirke Wolfe

Title of proposed course: Environmental Ethics

When is the course to be offered? Spring 1999

Name of Cluster/Cluster coordinator: Global Environmental Change/ Ansel G. Johnson

Please address the following items in your narrative, keying your text to the corresponding item below:

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION (100 words or less).

Phl 310 Environmental Ethics (4)

Identification and exploration of some of the more basic and important currently available philosophical issues, ideas and positions which pertain how we morally ought to deal with the non-human world. Reasoned examination of concepts and their logical relations using analytic philosophy. Explore what can be learned from sources such as personal experience, imagination, story-telling and other expressive arts, empirical inquiry, personal reflection and dialogue.

B. COURSE DEVELOPMENT. Please indicate whether the course is based on an existing course (and if so, please specify), or is a new course in development. If the course is a revision of an existing course, please explain what form the revision will take (this may be addressed under item C).

Note: Please be aware that the new General Education requirement is based on different premises from the former "distribution" requirement, and therefore the academic role of upper division courses in General Education will necessarily be different from the previous role.

This course is currently taught as a part of another Cluster. Topics from Global Environmental Change can be added to the course.

C. GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS. Please describe how your pedagogical goals for the course promote the University's goals of General Education as adopted by the Faculty Senate. Please review the relevant sections of the General Education Working Group Report (the document adopted by the Senate in 1993) or the September 16, 1994, report of the General Education Committee (both documents are available in the Office of University Studies, 245 CH). Applicants are reminded that the upper division courses are expected to focus on program goals related to Human Experience and Ethical Issues & Social Responsibility, while continuing to build on the Inquiry and Communication program goals. Course instructors should use active learning strategies and challenge students to display increasingly sophisticated research and communication abilities. Examples of strategies for each of the General Education program goals are listed in the General Education Working Group Report and the report of the General Education Committee. Attention should also be given to how this course functions in tandem with other courses in the cluster in working toward curricular integration within the cluster.
Colleagues are also reminded that upper division UNST courses are a replacement of the former distribution requirement for coursework in the Arts and Letters, Sciences, and Social Sciences. The Committee therefore anticipates upper division courses with scholarly content of the highest standard, consistent with the content level of the "distribution" courses under the previous General Education requirement, and befitting the University's core undergraduate curriculum.

This course meets Goal 1, Inquiry and Critical Thinking, Goal 2 Communication, Goal 3 Human Experience, and Goal 4 Ethical Issues and Social Responsibilities. The course uses reasoned argument and reasoned examination of concepts. Communication goal is met by use of writing and discussions in class. Goal 3 is met by using human experience as a part of the inquiry process. This includes student's personal experiences dealing with the issues of environmental ethics. Goal 4 is the primary objective of the course. It is based on ethics and the environment, so will spend a great deal of time on this issue.

D. COURSE OUTLINE. Please provide a detailed outline of the proposed course. This need not be a completed syllabus, but should include an outline of topics, a preliminary reading list, and the name(s) of instructor(s) committed to teaching the course during its first year.

This course will be taught by Kirke Wolfe or another faculty member in the Philosophy Department. It has been taught by Dr. Hammond in the past as well.

Also Photocopied Readings.

Identification and Exploration of philosophical issues.
Examination of Concepts
Logical Relationships
Analytic Philosophy
Exploration of Sources
Personal experiences
Critical Reflections
Project/reports due at end of Class.

Read & Discuss 1 to 3 essays per class period.