

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
Undergraduate Course Outline 2015-16**

**Philosophy 2035F: Nature, Ecology and the Future**

**At Home on the Earth: Becoming Native to Our Place**

Eited by David Landis Barnhill

**Limits to Growth: The 30-Year Update**

by Donella H. Meadows, Jorgen Randers, Dennis L. Meadows

**The Corporation: The Pathological Pursuit of Profit and Power**

by Joel Bakan

**No-One Makes You Shop at Wal-Mart: The Surprising Deceptions of Individual Choice**

by Thomas Slee

**OBJECTIVES**

This course aims to provide a transformative learning experience, by giving students tools for confronting and rethinking deep ethical and epistemological problems about the future. Several concrete objectives serve this overall aim. These include:

- x Giving students a basic understanding of several theoretical frameworks for analyzing global environmental problems, and the interrelations and limitations of these frameworks.
- x Providing students with models and opportunities for practicing honest and careful exploration of and response to difficult conceptual, ethical and epistemological problems.
- x Encouraging the integration of the intellectual insights from the course material with students' emotional, social, practical and creative lives through art production, blogging and field excursion.
- x Training students in effective articulation and communication of their thinking in both formal and informal writing, in discussion, and in designing and performing group presentations.

**REQUIREMENTS**

Classes will combine lectures and class discussions, with an emphasis on student participation. Students will contribute a blog post to an online forum. Two papers will be assigned (one about midterm, one close to the end of term).

These elements will be weighted as follows:

Paper I:	20%
Paper/Project II:	30%
Blog Post:	15%
Leading Discussion:	20%
Participation:	15%

## **AUDIT**

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

The **Department of Philosophy Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Philosophy courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Philosophy website at <http://uwo.ca/philosophy/undergraduate/proceduresappeals.html>. It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Philosophy, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.