**Environmental Ethics - Exam[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Due November 15th, 2018

Once you have completed reviewing your class notes, readings and slides, put away all materials and read the exam questions below, but **only then.** It's important that you don't get familiar with the question until you feel ready to take the exam.

The exam should be completed in **one continuous stretch of time** (no limit).

Number your responses; avoid introductions and conclusions. Please format your answers as double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font with standard margins. Each answer should be about 1 page in length, but no less than ¾ of a page or more than 2 ½ pages. Save the final document as a .doc, .docx or .rtf file, **title the document with only your student number**, and **submit on Canvas** by November 15 at 11:59pm. Please ***do not put your name anywhere*** on the document; instead, ***write your student number*** at the top or in the header.

The grading criteria are: structure/organization, coherence; grasp and use of course materials; critical skills, relevance, originality; clarity in writing. Please spell out your assumptions and arguments carefully, and avoid merely stating your own opinion. A complete answer will include references to key concepts, arguments, authors or studies discussed in class or the readings. You may ***not use any resources*** while completing the exam and may ***not read the questions until you are done reviewing the materials.*** No need to include formal citations, but do your best to cite author names when appropriate. Illustrate with examples. Good luck!

1. You’re taking a trip to your local zoo. As you walk by the sea lions pond you can hear visitors yelling and laughing as the seals swim and play around. You realize Dale Jamieson, Peter Singer and members of the Wildlife Conservation Society are standing next to you. They are arguing about the scene and the ethics of keeping sea lions in this setting. Most people seem to be enjoying the show. How is the conversation shaping up? What would they – respectively – tell the visitors? Depending on how you visualize the seals’ situation, state clearly the assumptions, relevant facts, and arguments of the debate. Feel free to introduce variations on the pitch.
2. The great philosopher Bluto once wrote that, “Humans are self-evidently special. So special, in fact, that even thinking that animal suffering is comparable to human suffering is an affront to common sense.” What assumptions and claims are being made by Bluto, and how would specific philosophers respond? Including both empirical and philosophical considerations.
3. *Beatricius Toudousus* is an endangered species. Thankfully, its carefully shorn fur is highly prized for its softness, resulting in the aggressive preservation of a small community of these animals for (humane) shearing. Discuss the types of valuing in this case, including their strengths and weaknesses, and what it might mean for the species.
4. Katsarkuul State Park is among the last tracts of unexploited, uninhabited land in Katsarkutopia. It is home to the largest variety of native fauna and flora in the state and attracts thousands of visitors from in and out of the state annually. State legislators recently introduced a bill to authorize residents on neighboring private lands to use the edges of the park for crops, ranching and farming. As a state resident and voter, how would you react and what steps would you take in support of or against the proposed legislation? Describe your reasons and potential disagreements.
5. Fifty years from now, your grandchildren or your friends’ grandchildren are likely to live in a warmer world. While the world will be recognizable, it will be significantly altered in many respects. Describe the ways in which it will be different for (various groups of) humans and nonhumans, how they can adapt, and what our responsibilities to them are, if any.

1. I’m indebted to Chris Schlottmann. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)