



# Contents

PREFACE xi

## I Basic Concepts 1

### 1 Science, Politics, and Ethics 3

Discussion: Global Climate Change 3

*Discussion Topics* 6

1.1 Introduction: Why Philosophy? 6

1.2 Science and Ethics 8

1.3 Philosophy, Politics, and Ethical Relativism 15

1.4 Environmental Ethics: An Overview 16

1.5 Summary 18

*Notes* 19

*Discussion Questions* 19

*Global Environmental Ethics Watch* 20

### 2 Ethical Theories and the Environment 21

Discussion: Why Protect Endangered Species? 21

*Discussion Topics* 22

2.1 Introduction 23

2.2 Philosophical Ethics: Getting Comfortable with the Topic 24

2.3 The Natural Law Tradition—Teleology and Virtues 27

2.4 Contemporary Perspectives on Teleology 30

2.5 The Utilitarian Tradition 33

2.6	Contemporary Perspectives on Utilitarianism	36
2.7	Deontology: An Ethics of Duty and Rights	37
2.8	Contemporary Perspectives on Deontological Ethics	38
2.9	Environmental Ethics and Religious Principles	40
	<i>The Good of God's Creation</i>	41
	<i>Finding the Divine in Nature</i>	41
	<i>The Ultimate Respect for and Value of Life</i>	42
	<i>Social Justice Ministries</i>	42
	<i>Stewardship</i>	43
2.10	Summary and Conclusions	43
	<i>Notes</i>	44
	<i>Discussion Questions</i>	44
	<i>Global Environmental Ethics Watch</i>	45

## **II Environmental Ethics as Applied Ethics 47**

### **3 Ethics and Economics: Managing Public Lands 49**

	Discussion: BP's Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill	49
	<i>Discussion Topics</i>	50
3.1	Introduction	51
3.2	Conservation or Preservation?	51
3.3	Managing the National Forests	54
3.4	Pollution and Economics	59
3.5	Ethical Issues in Economic Analysis	62
3.6	Cost-Benefit Analysis	64
3.7	Ethical Analysis and Environmental Economics	66
3.8	Summary and Conclusions	71
	<i>Notes</i>	71
	<i>Discussion Questions</i>	73
	<i>Global Environmental Ethics Watch</i>	73

### **4 Sustainability and Responsibilities to the Future 74**

	Discussion: Sustainability: Fad or Future?	74
	<i>Discussion Topics</i>	76
4.1	Introduction	77
4.2	Do We Have Responsibilities to Future Generations?	78
4.3	What do We Owe Future Generations?	81
4.4	Consumption and Sustainable Development	88
4.5	Summary and Conclusions	92

Notes 92

Discussion Questions 94

Global Environmental Ethics Watch 94

## **5 Responsibilities to the Natural World: From Anthropocentric to Nonanthropocentric Ethics 95**

Discussion: Industrial Farming: Mass Producing Animals as Food 95

*Discussion Topics* 97

5.1 Introduction 97

5.2 Moral Standing in the Western Tradition 98

5.3 Early Environmental Ethics 101

5.4 Moral Standing 105

5.5 Do Trees Have Standing? 108

5.6 Peter Singer and the Animal Liberation Movement 110

5.7 Tom Regan and Animal Rights 112

5.8 Ethical Implications of Animal Welfare 114

5.9 Critical Challenges 115

5.10 Summary and Conclusions 119

*Notes* 119

*Discussion Questions* 121

*Global Environmental Ethics Watch* 122

## **III Theories of Environmental Ethics 123**

### **6 Biocentric Ethics and the Inherent Value of Life 125**

Discussion: Synthetic Biology and the Value of Life 125

*Discussion Topics* 127

6.1 Introduction 127

6.2 Instrumental Value and Intrinsic Value 129

6.3 Biocentric Ethics and the Reverence for Life 132

6.4 Ethics and Character 135

6.5 Taylor's Biocentric Ethics 136

6.6 Practical Implications 140

6.7 Challenges and Developments 143

6.8 Summary and Conclusions 145

*Notes* 146

*Discussion Questions* 147

*Global Environmental Ethics Watch* 148

## **7 Wilderness, Ecology, and Ethics 149**

Discussion: Wilderness Management: Fighting Fires in Yellowstone 149

*Discussion Topics* 151

7.1 Introduction 151

7.2 The Wilderness Ideal 153

7.3 The Wilderness "Myth": The Contemporary Debate 157

7.4 From Ecology to Philosophy 163

7.5 From Ecology to Ethics 169

7.6 Varieties of Holism 171

7.7 Summary and Conclusions 173

*Notes* 173

*Discussion Questions* 175

*Global Environmental Ethics Watch* 176

## **8 The Land Ethic 177**

Discussion: Hunting, Ethics, and the Environment 177

*Discussion Topics* 178

8.1 Introduction 179

8.2 The Land Ethic 180

8.3 Leopold's Holism 183

8.4 Criticisms of the Land Ethic: Facts and Values 185

8.5 Criticisms of the Land Ethic: Holistic Ethics 189

8.6 Callicott's Revisions 195

8.7 Summary and Conclusions 199

*Notes* 200

*Discussion Questions* 201

*Global Environmental Ethics Watch* 202

## **9 Radical Environmental Philosophy: Deep Ecology and Ecofeminism 203**

Discussion: Environmental Activism or Ecoterrorism? 203

*Discussion Topics* 205

9.1 Introduction 205

9.2 Deep Ecology 207

9.3 The Deep Ecology Platform 208

9.4 Metaphysical Ecology 209

9.5 From Metaphysics to Ethics 212

9.6 Self-Realization And Biocentric Equality 216

- 9.7 Criticisms of Deep Ecology 218  
9.8 Ecofeminism: Making Connections 221  
9.9 Ecofeminism: Recent Developments 224  
9.10 Summary and Conclusions 227

*Notes* 228

*Discussion Questions* 231

*Global Environmental Ethics Watch* 231

## **10 Environmental Justice and Social Ecology 232**

Discussion: Environmental Refugees 232

*Discussion Topics* 233

10.1 Introduction 233

10.2 Property Rights and Libertarian Justice 234

10.3 Justice as Fairness 238

10.4 Environmental Justice and Environmental Racism 240

10.5 Murray Bookchin's Social Ecology 243

10.6 Critical Reflections 246

10.7 Summary and Conclusions 248

*Notes* 249

*Discussion Questions* 251

*Global Environmental Ethics Watch* 252

## **11 Pluralism, Pragmatism, and Sustainability 253**

Discussion: Carbon Mitigation and Stabilization Wedges 253

*Discussion Topics* 254

11.1 Introduction: Agreement and Disagreement in Environmental Ethics 255

11.2 Moral Pluralism and Moral Monism 256

11.3 Environmental Pragmatism 259

11.4 Conclusion: Sustainability Revisited 263

*Notes* 265

*Global Environmental Ethics Watch* 265

**GLOSSARY 267**

**INDEX 271**