UCOR 151–04: PHILOSOPHICAL ETHICS

Class Details:
Instructor: Ms. Kimberly Tucker
Time: TR 1:40-2:55
Office Hours: W 2:00-4:00
Location: 609 Fisher Hall
Email: tuckerk1@duq.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is designed to encourage students to become self-conscious thinkers, who can reflect critically about the nature of ethics not only as understood by the Western philosophical tradition, but by the Eastern as well. Ethics is a branch of philosophy that deals with questions pertaining to both human and non-human values, as well as moral conduct. In this course, we will examine both theoretical and applied approaches to ethics. The ethical theoretical perspectives we will be surveying draw from philosophy, religion, ecology, and poetry. They include the following: (1) Kant’s deontological ethics; (2) J.S. Mill’s utilitarianism; (3) Zen Buddhist ethics; (4) Contemporary phenomenological ethics. We will then use these theoretical frameworks to analyze some important ecological ethical issues facing the modern world today. Some of the concrete issues that we will discuss this semester include animal welfare and meat consumption, the role of natural resources in the global economy, and public health policy challenges around food and water.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Handouts Available on Blackboard
Selected poems by Gary Snyder.
Selections from Eihei Dōgen’s *Shōbōgenzō* (Treasury of the True Dharma Eye).
Selections from David Abram’s *The Spell of the Sensuous* and *Becoming Animal.*
Gary Francione, “The Abolition of Animal Use Versus the Regulation of Animal Treatment.”
Gary Francione, “Animals—Property or Persons?”
Robert Repetto, “Earth in the Balance Sheet.”

REQUIREMENTS
One protocol, two short papers, midterm and final exam.