

PHIL 224  
**Environmental Ethics, Week 10**  
 Paul Thagard

- Use of laptops (tablets, etc.) is discouraged, and limited to the last two rows.



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## Announcements

1. Debate Nov. 17.
2. Guest lecture Nov. 22.
3. Assignment 3 due Nov. 24: fracking, wind farms.
4. Exam 3, Dec. 1.

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## Ethical Questions

Rights and intrinsic value of zombies and aliens.



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## Barriere Lake Issues

1. Aboriginal land rights and benefits.
2. Forestry and mining practices.
3. Local management: direct democracy vs. band councils.

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## Algonquin values

- Intrinsic vs. instrumental view of nature.
- Land ethics: promote integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community.
- Human and non-human communities interconnect.
- Need to sustain the environment, using myth, ritual, and social community.
- Conflicts with commercial forestry and mining interests.

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## Fishing (Rogers)

Do fish have rights or intrinsic value?  
 Are they ethically equal to people?  
 How are fish vulnerable to economic globalization?  
 Privatization, deregulation, free trade.  
 Why are fish stocks collapsing?  
 Is collapse an example of the tragedy of the commons?

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## Conservation Strategies

1. Appreciate that standard practices are destructive.
2. Create a new social context.
3. Community-based conservation:  
Define the community.  
Claim of ownership of resources by the community.  
Democratically created regulation within the community.

Discussion: can community conservation solve global problems?

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## Are the Western Canadian Oil Sands Ethical?

- Consequences: economic growth, global warming, pollution, etc.
- Rights: property rights, human rights in oil-producing countries, aboriginal rights

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## Responsibilities of companies

1. Bargain fairly with voluntary stakeholders.
2. Consider consequences for involuntary stakeholders.
3. Distinguish between voluntary and involuntary stakeholders.
4. Support a fair distribution for all stakeholders.  
Mitigate (reduce) risk. Fair compensation for costs. Fair distribution of benefits.
5. Avoid impacts on stakeholders from which recovery is difficult.

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## Questions about responsibilities

1. Is the environment itself a stakeholder? No: social issues.
2. Are the five responsibilities adequate for settling issues?
3. Will the five responsibilities have any practical effect?

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## Why ethical mining is rare

1. Companies interpret responsibilities narrowly to legal ones.
2. Companies weigh risks for stockholders, not everyone affected.
3. Companies shape public opinion.
4. Companies don't anticipate public reactions based on fairness.

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