This course will provide an introduction to philosophical questions about ethics and the environment, including different conceptions of and attitudes toward nature; whether our approach to environmental problems should be human-focused or nature-focused; whether some forms of life (such as animals) should be given greater moral consideration than others; and others.

Special emphasis will be placed on concepts of environmental justice, which is the question of how benefits and burdens of environmental use should be distributed, and whether they are currently distributed fairly. The course will apply these concepts to pressing contemporary issues such as pollution, extinction, and climate change.

PHL 158: Introduction to Environmental Ethics and Justice

Fall 2020

- WI section available
- Satisfies UP IV-A

PHL 128: Philosophical Perspectives on Poverty and Economic Injustice

Spring 2021

- Satisfies UP IV-A

A philosophical examination of poverty and economic inequality; addresses questions of the moral justification of inequality, economic injustice, and poverty as a form of oppression.

What causes the gap between rich and poor?

What path takes us toward economic justice?

How much inequality of wealth would there be in a just world?