

Environmental Ethics: Theoretical Foundations  
Grace Campbell  
Humanities 414  
September 25, 2009

I. Foundational Assumptions:

- A. Anthropogenic (Human- Caused) change
- B. Evolution?
- C. Science and Ethics

II. Nature / Culture Split

- A. Monotheism
- B. Scientific Revolution
- C. Enlightenment Notions Of Progress
- D. Industrialization

III. Theories of Value: Re-Valuing Nature

- A. Instrumental Value
- B. Intrinsic Value

IV. Human / Nature Relationship: Three Philosophical Approaches

- A. Anthropocentrism: Human Centeredness
  - 1. Strong vs. Weak Anthropocentrism.
- B. Biocentrism: Life-Centered
  - 1. Representing The “Voiceless”
  - 2. Animal Liberation / Animal Rights
  - 3. Basic /Peripheral Interests
- C. Ecocentrism – System Centered (Biosphere-Centered)
  - 1. Gaia Hypothesis
  - 2. Deep Ecology
  - 3. Ecofeminism
  - 4. The Land Ethic
  - 5. The Social Ecology Critique

V. Theocentrism- A Fourth Way? (God-Centered)

- A. Religious Duty
- B. Stewardship

VI. Postmodern Environmental Ethics

- A. Deconstructing the Nature / Culture Binary
- B. The “Tourist Gaze”