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Integration of Environmental Ethics

As a possible way to further integrate the principles and ideas of environmental ethics into my courses, the following possibilities are proposed:

I teach PPE 1005 and several business courses in Independent Studies. In all of my courses, service-learning is an option for extra-credit and several students take advantage of these opportunities. Our placement list offers many settings dealing with environmental issues and animal care, and each term students choose these. In addition to completing 20-30 hours of service, students are required to write a paper linking the experience with course objectives. In order to encourage greater mindfulness in the area of environmental ethics, I could ask the students to also focus their attention on a variety of issues presented at the workshop and in the assigned articles. For example, the students would read as much of the agencies' literature as possible to understand their mission as it relates to broader cosmology. Students would be encouraged to address such issues as non-human resources, program impact analysis, total cost accounting, architectural issues, energy use, recycling efforts, etc. in their papers and reflective dialogues. Perhaps the articles assigned for this workshop could be offered to guide students in their harvesting their service experience for a greater sensitivity of our relationship with the natural world.

In my ongoing classroom instruction, I will make an effort to incorporate more Earth literacy issues in my daily presentations. In the PPE course, which deals with self-mastery, interpersonal relations, and career choice and development, these principles fit very well. A holistic approach to self-mastery includes the development of spiritual awareness and a greater consciousness of unity. Mindfulness in all of our actions is essential to self-mastery. Many ideas discussed at the workshop encourage this mindfulness. I will make an effort to extend the concept of "interpersonal;" relations to the non-human as well as human. I will emphasize the importance of our compassion toward all of the natural world. Finally, in the area of careers, I will emphasize the importance of seeing work as consciousness made visible and the need to find work which is consistent with an individual's awareness, philosophy, and cosmology.