

PHIL 224
Environmental Ethics, Week 4
 Paul Thagard

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

Dilbert

1

Exam Oct. 6

- Short-answer questions (do 4 out of 5). Write about 1/4 page.
- Short essay (do 1 out of 2). Write a page or 2.
- Study the text and lecture notes, preparing answers to the review questions.

2

Future Generations

Why and how much should we care about future generations?

1. People care about their own descendants.
2. Future people will have rights.
3. Future people will have pleasure and pain.
4. Future people will have the same needs as current people.

3

Preserving Wild Nature

Why care?

1. Provide benefits for current and future generations.
2. Animals, plants, mountains, and other parts of nature are good in themselves (intrinsic value).

Problems

1. Is conservation elitist?
2. Can value (utility) be reduced to money?

4

Genetically Modified Organisms

Consequentialist arguments against

1. Health dangers
2. Control of agriculture by a few large companies, e.g. Monsanto
3. Loss of genetic diversity leading to future disasters

Consequentialist arguments for

1. Reduce world hunger
2. Increase profits for farmers

5

Discussion Question

- Why should people care about preserving wild nature?
- Please close laptops.

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