

Reading Questions for March 27

These questions covers part of an article by Alasdair Cochrane called “Environmental Ethics”. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to do the reading more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

This week, we’re focused on duties to the environment. At times in this class we have looked at issues related to moral status. In particular, we’ve looked at issues relating to the moral status of adult humans, of fetuses, and of animals. Today we’ll look at the moral status of the environment. Then, on Friday, we’ll take a look at some virtues related to the environment.

*Questions:*

1. In section 1c, titled “Individual Living Organisms”, Cochrane discusses reasons for thinking individual living organisms have moral status (he uses the term “moral standing” rather than moral status). What are some of the reasons he mentions? What do you think, do all living organisms have moral status? Why?
2. In section 1d, titled “Holistic Entities”, Cochrane discusses some views that extend moral status beyond individual living organisms. What are the view he mentions and what are the reasons he mentions for holding them? What do you think; are these views plausible? Why?