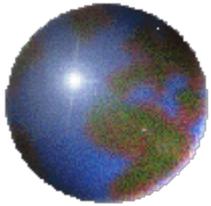


Values, Ethics, and Sustainability

1

Lecture #10 (final wrap-up class)



Colin L. Soskolne, PhD
Professor of Epidemiology
School of Public Health
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta

URL: www.colinsoskolne.com

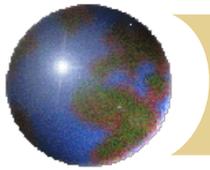
Edmonton Lifelong Learners Association (ELLA)

--- Course Number EL 21 ---

University of Alberta, Education South 165, April 30-May 11, 2012

David Thompson will teach the last week (May 14-18, 2012)

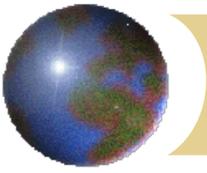




Wendell Berry (b. 1934)

“We seem to have been living for a long time on the assumption that we can safely deal with the parts, leaving the whole to take care of itself. But now the news from everywhere is that we have to begin gathering up the scattered pieces, figuring out where they belong, and putting them back together. For the parts can be reconciled to each other only within the pattern of the whole to which they belong.”





*Values and how they influence our
interpretation of events*

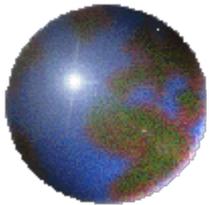


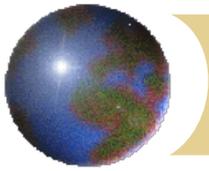
Opinion

Publisher: Linda Hughes
Editor in Chief: Murdoch Davis
Managing Editor: Sheila Pratt
Associate Editor: Duart Farquharson



SAME PLANET, DIFFERENT WORLDS.

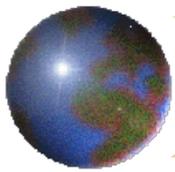




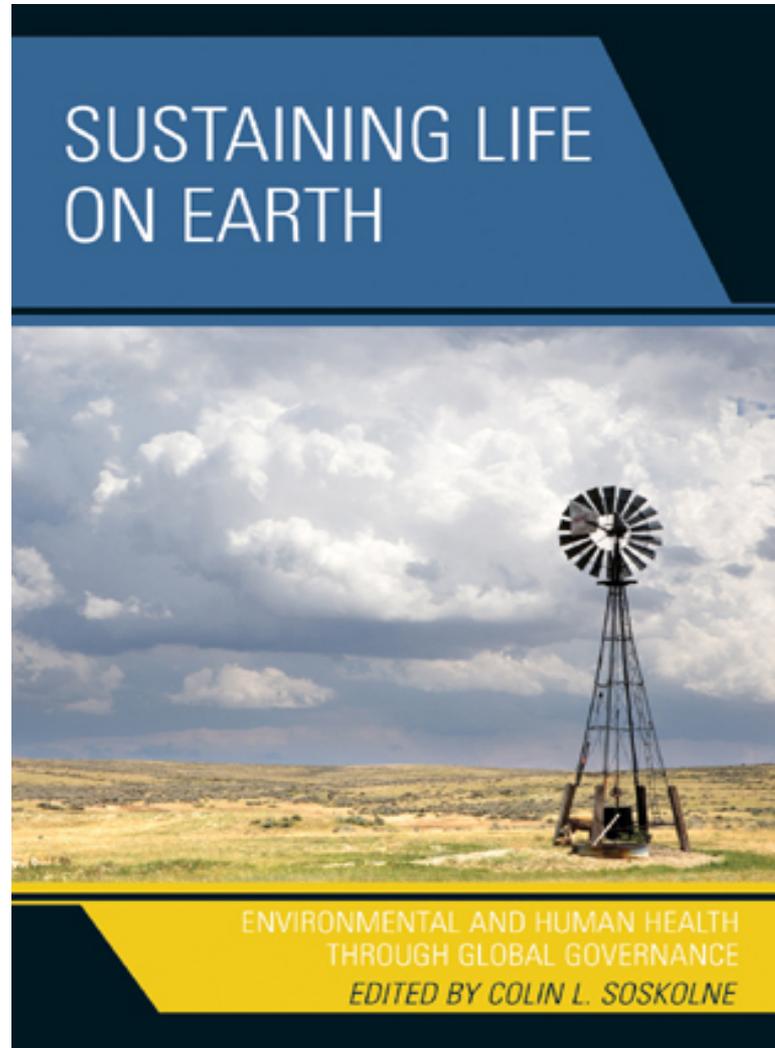
Sustaining Life on Earth: **Environmental and Human Health** **through Global Governance**

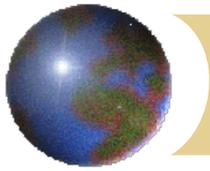
 www.LexingtonBooks.com/ISBN/0739117297





2008: Lexington Books



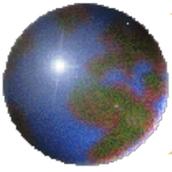


Advance Praise ...

“This book is a powerful attempt to prove that human intelligence, and the institutions it has created, possess power enough to blunt the force of our ecological destructiveness. It provides a light for the path, one that is badly needed.”

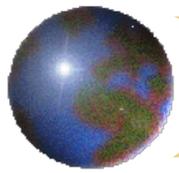
—**Bill McKibben**, author *Deep Economy*; and in “*The Eleventh Hour*” with Leonardo DiCaprio (2007)





✚ What jurisdictions are at the forefront in addressing large-scale environmental health problems?





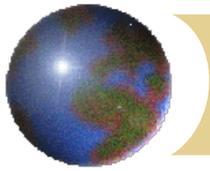
Grave Challenges

Individually & Collectively

OPPORTUNITY and HOPE:

- 1. The Earth Charter**
- 2. Constitution and Bill of Rights**
- 3. Teaching about Sustainability**
- 4. Local Land Ethic (*Indiana Dunes*)**
- 5. Websites that are global/Journals**
- 6. Conventions and Treaties**





The Earth Charter

A **soft law** instrument ... to save us from ourselves

Preamble

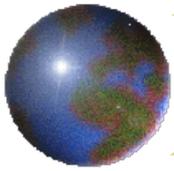
- ⊕ *Respect and care for the community of life*
- ⊕ *Ecological integrity*
- ⊕ *Social and economic justice*
- ⊕ *Democracy, non-violence, and peace*

The Way Forward

<http://www.earthcharter.org/>

Accessible in 35 different languages

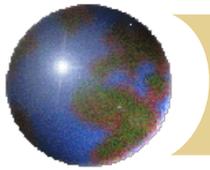




I. Respect and care for the community of life

- ✦ 1. **Respect Earth and life in all its diversity.**
- ✦ 2. **Care for the community of life with understanding, compassion, and love.**
- ✦ 3. **Build democratic societies that are just, participatory, sustainable, and peaceful.**
- ✦ 4. **Secure Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations.**

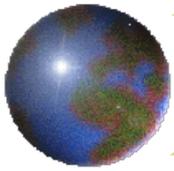




II. Ecological Integrity

- ✦ 5. Protect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems, with special concern for biological diversity and the natural processes that sustain life.
- ✦ 6. Prevent harm as the best method of environmental protection and, when knowledge is limited, apply a precautionary approach.
- ✦ 7. Adopt patterns of production, consumption, and reproduction that safeguard Earth's regenerative capacities, human rights, and community well-being.
- ✦ 8. Advance the study of ecological sustainability and promote the open exchange and wide application of the knowledge acquired.

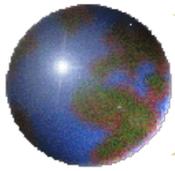




III. Social and Economic Justice

- ✦ **9. Eradicate poverty as an ethical, social, and environmental imperative.**
- ✦ **10. Ensure that economic activities and institutions at all levels promote human development in an equitable and sustainable manner.**
- ✦ **11. Affirm gender equality and equity as prerequisites to sustainable development and ensure universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity.**
- ✦ **12. Uphold the right of all, without discrimination, to a natural and social environment supportive of human dignity, bodily health, and spiritual well-being, with special attention to the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities.**

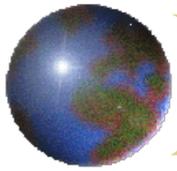




IV. Democracy, Non-Violence and Peace

- ✦ **13. Strengthen democratic institutions at all levels, and provide transparency and accountability in governance, inclusive participation in decision making, and access to justice.**
- ✦ **14. Integrate into formal education and life-long learning the knowledge, values, and skills needed for a sustainable way of life.**
- ✦ **15. Treat all living beings with respect and consideration.**
- ✦ **16. Promote a culture of tolerance, nonviolence, and peace.**

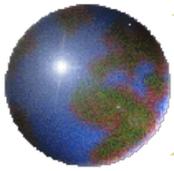




The Earth Charter

- ✿ **Enabling of MDG attainment**
- ✿ **Linkages among health, poverty, and conservation**
- ✿ **Inter-dependencies are recognized**



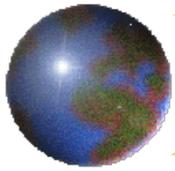


Rights-Based Arguments in Support of The Earth Charter

- ❖ **The Earth Charter is the only document that:**
 - ❖ *Supports Ecological Integrity rights*
 - ❖ *Has Biocentrism at its core*
 - ❖ *Integrates the dependence of human health on Ecological Integrity, and hence “the right to life” for present and future generations*
 - ❖ *Extends a right to precaution in policy-making (benefits to whom? risks to whom?)*
 - ❖ *Explicitly defends future generations*

Fully addresses Buddhist and other religions’ concerns too



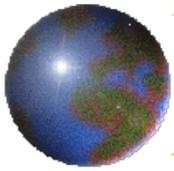


The Earth Charter

✦ **Encourages interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to addressing complex social policy questions that also integrate health**

✦ <http://www.earthcharter.org/files/charter/charter.pdf>

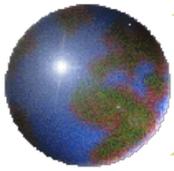




✚ **Prevention in focus –**

**for the support of *all* life and its
inter-dependence**



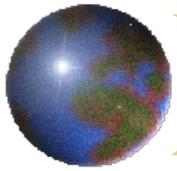


Universal Responsibility *(1 of 2)*

The Earth Charter ends with a statement of Universal Responsibility:

*To realize these aspirations, we must decide to live with a sense of **universal responsibility**, identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community as well as our local communities. We are at once citizens of different nations and of one world in which the **local** and **global** are linked.*





Universal Responsibility (2 of 2)

Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well-being of the human family and the larger living world.

The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature ...



NEW Interdisciplinary Course Energy and the Environment INT D 561 Values, Ethics, and Sustainability

Semester: Fall 2008

Class Times: Thursdays 18:30--21:30 (Sept. 4 – Nov 27, 2008)

Location: 170 Education Centre South

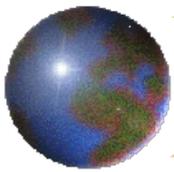
Instructor: Colin Soskolne, School of Public Health

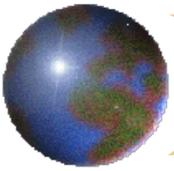
This highly interdisciplinary course will reveal the extent to which “the system” is broken, how we have come to the point of systems collapse, and how a major overhaul might be managed. It will frame the issues and equip new generations of graduates with the means for changing course, from a world destined to collapse under current business-as-usual approaches, to a sustainable world for both present and future generations. Students will gain an appreciation for how values and ethics impinge on decisions that are needed to reconnect humans to the ecosystems upon which we depend for a sustainable future.

Pre-requisites: At least one relevant course in any of the sciences, humanities, or engineering disciplines AND written permission of the course coordinator (at colin.soskolne@ualberta.ca), based on a brief explanation of why you are motivated enough to take this course. The course coordinator MAY waive the course requirement component for those students who can justify a waiver based on work or life experience.

School of Energy and the Environment (SEE)

For more information, please contact Professor Colin Soskolne at colin.soskolne@ualberta.ca or visit the School of Energy and the Environment website at www.see.ualberta.ca





Indiana Dunes

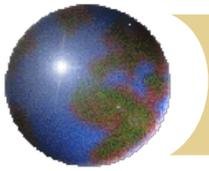
 <http://www.humansandnature.org/>

 <http://indianadunesethic.wikispaces.com/>

Camrose, Alberta

(Augustana) next ?





✦ **Edmonton and Area Land Trust**

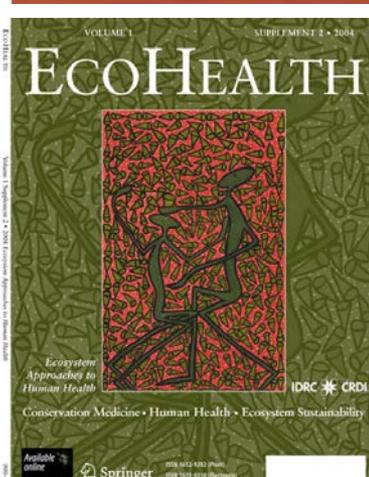
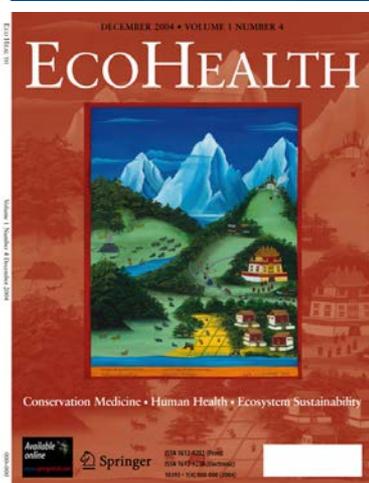
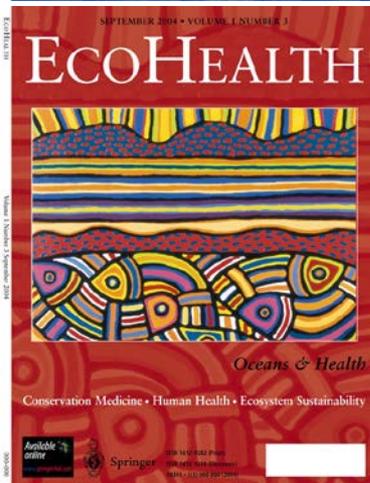
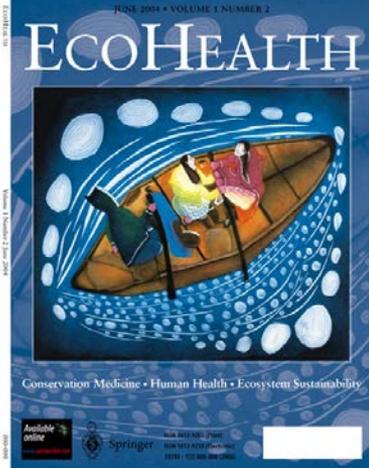
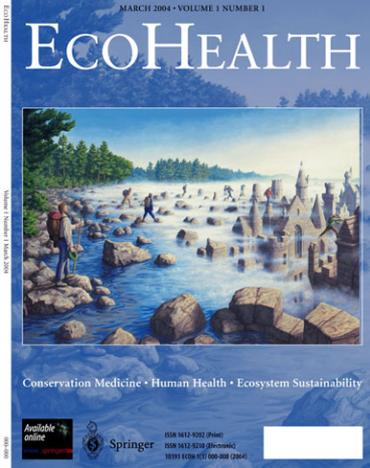
✦ <http://www.ealt.ca/culture-connection/>

✦ **V1 Newsletter: Promoting Spatial Design for a Sustainable Tomorrow**

✦ <http://www.vector1media.com/>

✦ **Global Footprint Network (1.2 to 1.5 earths – overshoot)**

✦ <http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/>

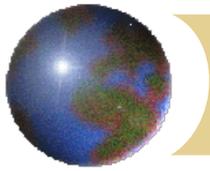


ECOHEALTH

International Association for Ecology & Health

www.ecohealth.net





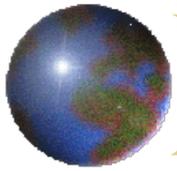
Convention on Biological Diversity

A two-week meeting of over 190 countries' governments in Nagoya, Japan, **October 2010.**

At the opening session, the very last sentence of Achim Steiner (the head of the United Nations Environment Program) was that

“we must approach biodiversity conservation from an ethical point of view” ...



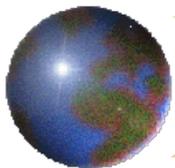


An historic deal to halt the mass extinction of species was finally agreed last night in what conservationists see as the most important international treaty aimed at preventing the collapse of the world's wildlife. *London Independent, United Kingdom*

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/countries-join-forces-to-save-life-on-earth-2120487.html>

October, 2010





Sustainability Investment funds increase

27

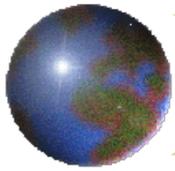
More than 100 indexes that use various criteria to measure companies' environmental, social, and economic performance are attracting the attention of investors.

Investment funds based on the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index have attracted more than \$8 billion, for example.

Chemical & Engineering News

<http://pubs.acs.org/isubscribe/journals/cen/88/i44/html/8844bus1.html>





South Africa 1996 Bill of Rights

24. Environment

Everyone has the right

(a) To an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being; and

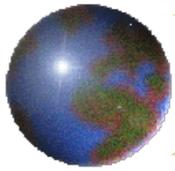
(b) To have the environment protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that

(i) prevent pollution and ecological degradation;

(ii) promote conservation; and

(iii) secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable social and economic development.

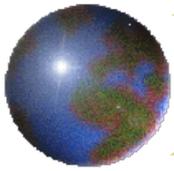




And more countries since mid-1990s

- ✦ **Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, Cuba, Andorra, Ukraine, France, India, China, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Montenegro, Iraq, Kenya, Bhutan**
- ✦ **and others ...see Boyd, David R. (2011) UBC Press *The Environmental Rights Revolution: A Global Study of Constitutions, Human Rights, and the Environment***

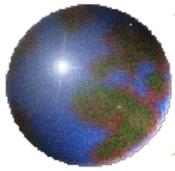




Can we prevent severe effects?

- ❑ **Primordial *prevention***
- ❑ **Primary *prevention***
- ❑ **Secondary *prevention***
- ❑ **Tertiary *prevention***





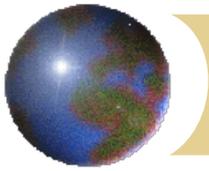
Enablers *Needed to alter present course*

✚ Primordial Prevention for

▣ Normative structural

- Incentives
- Disincentives





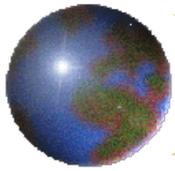
*Primordial Prevention:
Eco-epidemiology's domain ...*

Policy shifts for:

- **Health Benefits**
- **Present and Future Generations**

**HOW BEST TO INFORM SUCH
POLICIES?**

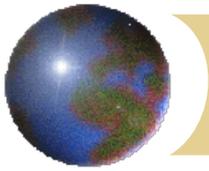




The Challenges are to

- ⊕ ***Influence values for sustainability***
- ⊕ ***Instill new ethical norms for sustainable behavior in:***
 - ⊕ **Individuals**
 - ⊕ **Organizations (NGOs, professional societies, etc)**
 - ⊕ **Institutions (financial, schools, universities, etc)**
 - ⊕ **Corporations**
 - ⊕ **Governments (local, national, supranational)**
- ⊕ ***Influence law and its enforcement***
- ⊕ ***Reduce scientific uncertainties***



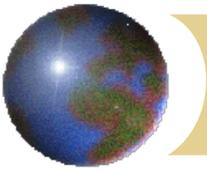


Public Education - Movies

Home (1 hour and 33 minutes)

 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqxENMKaeCU>





Questions/Discussion?

*Thank you and best wishes
as we move forward to
effect the needed
changes*

