

PHILOSOPHICAL PRINCIPLES AND PERSPECTIVES

ETHICAL PRINCIPLES

- A) **UNIVERSALISTS:** the fundamental principles of ethics are universal, unchanging and eternal, **REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES.**
- B) **RELATIVISTS:** moral principles are relative to a **PARTICULAR** person, society, or situation.
- C) **NIHILISTS:** everything is completely arbitrary; no purpose/meaning in life; **only power, strength, and sheer survival matter.**
- D) **UTILITARIANS:** an action is right if it produces the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people.

RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL, AND MORAL PHILOSOPHIES

A) **BIOCENTRISM:** all living things are held to be worthy of respect.

Examples:

Buddhism

Shintoism

Taoism

Shamanism

B) **ANTHROPOCENTRISM:** humans are masters of the world with a unique set of rights (e.g., to control and/or exploit nature).

Examples:

Christianity

Judaism

Islam

RELIGIOUS, CULTURAL, AND MORAL PHILOSOPHIES (continued)

- C) **STEWARDSHIP:** the responsibility to care for and manage a particular place (**e.g., partners in nature rather than masters of it**).

Examples:

Christianity

Judaism

Islam

- D) **ECOFEMINISM:** humans relationship to nature should be non-dominating and non-hierarchical. Ecofeminists are concerned less with rights, obligations, ownership, and responsibilities and more with care, appropriate reciprocity, and kinship. **To ecofeminists, domination, exploitation, and mistreatment of women, children, minorities, and nature are connected and reinforcing.**

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS

ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS are concerned with the moral values and ethical principles demonstrated in the relationships between humans and the environment (e.g., the world around us).

They are often based on the ethical principles and moral philosophies outlined previously and are used to address the next 6 topics.

BASIC DEFINITIONS

THE NEXT SIX SLIDES DEFINE IMPORTANT CONCEPTS AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND AND WORK TO SOLVE.

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

TOXIC COLONIALISM

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

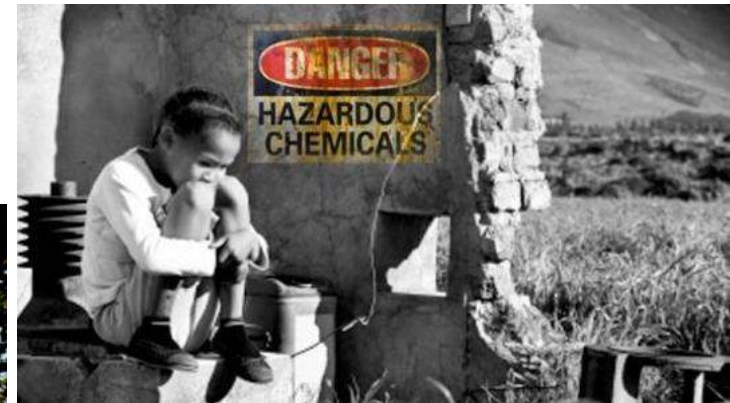
LULU

SOCIAL JUSTICE

NIMBY

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM results from decisions that restrict certain people or groups of people to polluted or degraded environments on the basis of race



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE recognizes that access to a clean, healthy environment is a fundamental right of all human beings.



TOXIC COLONIALISM

TOXIC COLONIALISM describes the behavior of developed nations exporting toxic wastes to poor or developing nations. It is also called **GARBAGE IMPERIALISM**.



LULU AND NIMBY

LULU stands for locally unwanted land use such as sanitary landfills, toxic waste dumps, airports, etc.

LULUs often lead to **NIMBYs** which literally stands for “not in my backyard” and are protests against the LULU.



QUIZ ON PHILOSOPHICAL PRINCIPLES AND PERSPECTIVES

1. Name some issues that could be LULU's and generate NIMBY's in the future.
2. Do you believe that toxic colonialism is ethical and moral? Why or why not?
3. Based on this lecture presentation, how would you classify the recent Flint, Michigan, water crisis? Explain your reasoning.
4. How should humans interact with the Earth's plant and animal resources? Explain your reasoning from one of the 4 philosophies explained in slides #3 and #4.