

# Environmental Aesthetics

PHIL 4340 (Issues in Environmental Ethics)  
Thursdays 2:55-5:25; Instructor, Jeff Lockwood



This course focuses on the aesthetic valuation and appreciation of natural objects, places, and processes. We will compare the aesthetic standards of art the engagement of nature. To explore natural beauty, we will reach into the realms of environmental art, gardens, and farms. And we'll ponder:

- Is it possible to fully appreciate the beauty of the Tetons while being ignorant of geology?
- Can a restored habitat ever be as beautiful as a pristine one?
- Is it possible to be *wrong* about an aesthetic judgment of the natural world?
- Are scientists or artists particularly well-prepared to aesthetically appreciate nature?
- Should aesthetic value count in public policy and conservation decisions?
- Can an artist improve the beauty of a natural object or setting?
- Should knowing how something functions or was formed matter to aesthetic appreciation?
- Can elements of nature be ugly, if truly understood?

