PHIL 481: Topics in Philosophy
Winter 2017
Theme
The Rights of Local More-than-Human Communities
Time and place
11:30-1:00 Wednesday and Friday, MAASS 328
Instructor
Greg Mikkelson
Leacock 913, 514-398-8630
Office hour: 1:15-2:15 Wednesday
Course description
This course in applied environmental political philosophy will focus on the reasons for, nature of, and prospects for applying in Canada, a certain kind of response to ecological threats that has gained some traction in the United States. In this approach, citizens and/or their representatives pass laws that assert the rights of natural ecosystems to exist and flourish, and the rights of municipalities to protect those ecosystems against actions by corporations and "higher" levels of government.
Required readings
Available at The Word bookstore, 469 Milton Street
Linzey, T. and A. Campbell. 2016. We the People: Stories from the Community Rights Movement in the United States. PM. Oakland, CA.
Available through MyCourses
All other readings
Course requirements

Class participation: 10% of grade
Do all the readings before class, and come prepared to discuss them.

Short essay on nature rights: 20%
1,000-1,500 words of text (excluding title page, tables, figures, bibliography, etc.), double-spaced. Must include word count. E-mail this to me before midnight on Monday February 13th.

Class presentation on community rights: 30%
15 minutes. E-mail the outline, presentation slides, to me before midnight on the day of your presentation.

Final paper: 40%
2,000-3,000 words of text (excluding title page, tables, figures, bibliography, etc.), double-spaced. Must include word count. Print this out, two pages to a side, double-sided, and hand it in in class the last day, Friday April 7th.

Etc.

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest) for more information).