



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2020

PH3330 (A2): Professional Ethics - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tina Strasbourg **PHONE:** 780-539-2237
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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

FALL 2020 DELIVERY:

Remote Delivery. This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-to-face or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through helpdesk@gprc.ab.ca.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine the roles and responsibilities of professionals, as well as ethical challenges they face. These challenges often involve balancing self-interest, clients' interests, and the public good. At times they involve weighing clients' interests and clients' wishes (and their autonomy). They may also involve efforts to resolve conflicts between the professionals' personal moral beliefs and their perceived duties as professionals. Challenges and issues will be explored through consideration of debates within specific fields (such as accounting, medicine, engineering, journalism and law) - often with relevance across professions. Controversies will also be investigated through study of general discussions of common concerns. Ethical concepts and outlooks will provide assistance in facing the challenges.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Fritz Allhoff & Anand Vaidya, editors. Professions in Ethical Focus: An Anthology. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2008.

Other resource materials links will be posted on D2L.

DELIVERY MODE (S): Lectures and discussions

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To gain an understanding of important historical approaches to ethics and apply these theories to current day professional issues.
2. To develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills through the practical application of ethical theories to professional concepts.
3. To examine assumptions, values, goals, principles and actions as they affect professions and society as a whole.
4. To gain an understanding of the effect of individual and professional decisions.
5. To enhance awareness and increase understanding of the nature of professional ethics.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The learning outcomes stressed in this course are Communication Skills, Critical Thinking Skills and Ethical Reasoning.

1. Students will use Communication Skills

- Communicating clearly and concisely employing written and verbal skills appropriate to class assignments and discussion.
- Demonstrating interpersonal skills by listening effectively, establishing a rapport with peers, and monitoring non-verbal signals.
- Expressing awareness of and respect for self and others.
- See section on Philosophical Etiquette for a further description.

2. Students will use **Critical Thinking Skills**

- Analyzing theoretical concepts and examining the connections between them.
- Critically assessing philosophical theories and arguments in support of these theories.
- Developing arguments with strong logical inferences between premises and conclusions.

3. Students will use **Ethical Reasoning**

- Applying ethical reasoning to practical situations.
- Recognizing and examining multiple perspectives.
- Analyzing and discussing issues from an ethical perspective.

TRANSFERABILITY:

This course is considered a University Transferable Course; however, the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability and transferable grades.**

EVALUATIONS:

Participation	10%	
Comprehension Assessment Quizzes	50%	5 quizzes worth 10% each (TBA)
Critical Essay Outline	15%	Due date: November 20th
Critical Essay Final	25%	TBA

Class Participation:

As a synchronous remote course, students are expected to attend every lecture. Attendance is necessary for participation in philosophical discussion. Participation better enables us to understand difficult philosophical concepts, get clarity on others' arguments, and offers the opportunity to practice developing our own arguments.

Comprehension Assessment Quizzes:

Students will complete five quizzes throughout the term. Students will receive ample advance notice regarding the date and time of each. The purpose of the quizzes is to give students the opportunity to illustrate their understanding of material covered in class, which includes lectures, in-class discussion and course readings. It is therefore to students' advantage to attend every class.

Critical Essay Outline and Critical Essay: See the assignment rubrics posted on D2L for details. **It is expected that students will read these documents carefully and fulfill the requirements of the assignments as described in the rubrics.**

Students should work on their critical essay throughout the term. The content of the essay should ideally be based off your critical essay outline. The due date will be assigned during the final exam period. Please check the registrar's posting for a schedule of final examinations for the essay due date.

Note: Unless previously discussed, late work will be penalized in the absence of a valid excuse. The assignment grade will be reduced by 10% each day it is overdue, including weekends.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Unit 1: Introduction to Philosophy, Logical Fallacies, and Ethical Theories

Unit 2: Professional Ethics

How to write a philosophy outline and essay

Unit 3: Ethics & Medicine

Unit 4: Ethics & Engineering

Unit 5: Ethics & Accounting and Finance

Unit 6: Ethics & Journalism

Unit 7: Ethics & Law

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Regular attendance and participation in discussion is expected. Participation is a way to help advance the discussion, gain understanding of course material and encourage others.
2. Please do not be late for class.
3. Students are expected to complete assigned readings before class. Do not fall behind in the assigned readings because it is difficult to catch up.
4. If students miss class, it is their responsibility to obtain lecture material and the reading assignment.
5. Policies regarding final exams are governed by college-wide policy. Students should consult the Examinations policy in the GPRC Calendar. In particular, students should consult the GPRC Calendar for any questions regarding deferred exams but note that students are required to be available to write exams during the entire final exam period.

Refer to the College Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities at

<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at

<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

Additional Information:

Philosophical Etiquette

Contrary to popular belief philosophy is not a blood sport. A philosophical discussion should not be thought of as an opportunity to participate in arguments that are meant to crush one's opponent. Rather it is an opportunity, first and foremost, to gain an understanding of philosophical concepts. Second, it should inspire critical analysis of philosophical concepts. And finally, it should facilitate fruitful discussion. I expect all students to show good philosophical etiquette, which is to exhibit mutual respect for each other's ideas and comments and that people not be *purposefully* offensive.

Pet Peeves (these are still pet peeves even though this course is taught remotely)

Cell phones that ring during class or use of cell phones during class (this includes texting). The sound of binders closing and people packing-up books before I've indicated that the class is over. Trying to talk over people who are discussing their weekend plans during class time. Use of laptops or other electronic devices that disrupts other students.