



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2016

PH3330 (A3) / PHIL333 (AU): Professional Ethics - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tina Strasbourg **PHONE:** 780-539-2919
OFFICE: H120 **E-MAIL:** tstrasbourg@gprc.ab.ca

OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

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

Resource Materials links posted on Moodle.

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.

CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS: 3 credits / 3 hours per week

DELIVERY MODE (S): Lectures and discussions

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To gain an understanding of important historical approaches to ethics.
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 affect 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, Thinking Skills and Ethical Reasoning.

1. Students will use **Communication Skills** in

- Communicating clearly and concisely employing written and verbal skills appropriate to class assignments and discussion
- Demonstrating interpersonal skills by listening effectively, establishing rapport, 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 **Thinking Skills** in

- Analyzing theoretical concepts and examining the connections between them
- Critically assessing philosophical theories and arguments in support of these theories

3. Students will use **Ethical Reasoning** in

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

TRANSFERABILITY: AU, UA, UC, UL, Mount Royal U

**** 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.**

GRADING CRITERIA:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A ⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A ⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B ⁺	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B ⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C ⁺	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C ⁻	1.7	60 – 62	
D ⁺	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

EVALUATIONS:

Article Review	20%
Short Exam	15%
Critical Essay	20%
Final Exam	35%

Participation

10%

Article Review: 20% (300-500 words, double-spaced with one-inch margins).

Due date: **February 10th**.

Write a critical reflection of a professional ethics issue or situation currently in the news. Feel free to use any case I bring up in class for your article review.

1. Select a professional ethics case that is or has been in the news recently.
2. Collect one or two articles pertaining to the case and attached a copy of the article(s) to your submission.
3. Write a 300-500 word critical reflection on your reaction to the case. Include your philosophical reasoning about the case and why you think it is an issue of professional ethics using insights gained from readings and class discussion.

In Class Short Exam: 15%

Date: **March 7th**, in class

Critical Essay: 20% (3-4 pages in length, double-spaced with one-inch margins).

Due date: **April 4th**.

1. Your essay should include a short discussion and critique of some interesting, important or contentious philosophical point or argument in the readings. **Do not summarize the text.**
2. Your essay should have a clear, concise thesis statement in reference to some issue in professional ethics that we cover in class. Think of a thesis statement as the conclusion for which you will build an argument in your critical essay. You will be deducted marks for not including a thesis statement.
3. Your essay should include at least one academic article from the course material.
4. Use whichever citation style with which you are comfortable (just use it consistently and correctly). You will be deducted marks for incorrect citations.

Final Exam: 35%

Date: TBA

Note: Unless previously discussed, I will not accept email assignments. I will count these as late until I receive a hard copy.

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.

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, student 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

www.gprc.ab.ca/d/STUDENTRIGHTSRESPONSIBILITIES

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Refer to the College Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic Policy at

www.gprc.ab.ca/d/STUDENTMISCONDUCT

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available at

www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/

Please refer to the Alberta Transfer guide for current transfer agreements:

www.transferralberta.ca

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

Cell phones that ring during class or use of cell phones during class. 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. Unstapled assignments. Use of laptops that disrupts other students.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Administrative

January 6th (week 1)

Unit 1: Introduction to Philosophy, Morality, Ethics and Reasoning

January 11th & 13th (week 2)

January 18th (week 3)

Unit 2: Ethical Theories

January 20th (week 3)

January 25th (week 4)

Unit 3: Professional Ethics

January 27th (week 4)

February 1st & 3rd (week 5)—Library Tutorial February 3rd

February 8th (week 6)

Unit 4: Ethics & Engineering

February 10th (week 6)—Article Review due on February 10th

February 15th & 17th Reading Week—no class

February 22nd (week 7)

Unit 5: Ethics & Medicine

February 24th (week 7)

February 29th & March 2nd (week 8)

Exam—March 7th

Unit 6: Ethics & Accounting and Finance

March 9th (week 9)—Library Tutorial

March 14th & 16th (week 10)

March 21st (Week 11)

Unit 7: Ethics & Journalism

March 23rd (week 11)

March 28th & 30th (week 12)—Guest Speaker

Unit 8: Ethics & Law

April 4th & 6th (week 13)—Critical Essay due April 4th

April 11th (week 14)

Final Exam Review—April 13th (week 14)