



## **DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

### **COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2017**

**PH3330 (A3) / PHIL333 (AU): Professional Ethics - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

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

#### **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.

Resource Materials links posted on Moodle.

**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 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, 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, MRU

**\*Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **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 Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlineSearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

**\*\* 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.**

### **EVALUATIONS:**

Case Study Critical Essay	20%	Due date: February 13th
Mid-term Exam	20%	Due date: March 13 <sup>th</sup>
Case Study Critical Essay	20%	Due date: April 5th
Final Exam	30%	Due date: TBA
Participation	10%	

Case Study Critical Essays: 20% each (2 pages in length, double-spaced with one-inch margins).

1. Your essay will be a short philosophical discussion and critique of the assigned case study. Your argument should include at least one of the ethical principles of the ethical theories covered in class. **Do not summarize the text.**
2. Your essay should have a clear, concise thesis statement. 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 reference at least one academic article from the course material in addition to the assigned case study.
4. Use whichever citation style with which you are comfortable (just use it consistently and correctly). You will be deducted marks for incorrect citations.

In Class Mid-term Exam: 20%

1. Details of the mid-term exam will be covered in the class before the exam.

Final Exam: 30%

1. Details of the final exam will be covered in the last class.

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.

### 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/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

#### Administrative

January 9<sup>th</sup> (week 1)

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

January 11<sup>th</sup> (week 1)

January 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> (week 2)—Library Tutorial on January 18<sup>th</sup>

#### Unit 2: Ethical Theories

January 23<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> (week 3)

January 30<sup>th</sup> & February 1<sup>st</sup> (week 4)

February 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> (week 5)—Review Case Study for Essay

#### Unit 3: Ethics & Law

February 13<sup>th</sup> (week 6)—Ethics & Law Guest Speaker (no assigned reading)  
—First Critical Essay due on February 13<sup>th</sup>

#### Unit 4: Professional Ethics

February 15<sup>th</sup> (week 6)

February 20<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> **Reading Week—no class**

February 27<sup>th</sup> & March 1<sup>st</sup> (week 7)

March 6<sup>th</sup> (week 8)

**Unit 5: Ethics & Journalism**

March 8<sup>th</sup> (week 8)

**Unit 6: Ethics & Engineering**

March 13<sup>th</sup> (week 9)—In class Mid-term Exam

March 15<sup>th</sup> (week 9)

March 20<sup>th</sup> (week 10)

**Unit 7: Ethics & Accounting and Finance**

March 22<sup>nd</sup> (Week 10)—Documentary “The Smartest Guys in the Room”

(Note: documentary is 1hr & 50mins long. Prepare to stay late on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and we will finish 30 minutes early in another class)

March 27<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> (week 11)

**Unit 8: Ethics & Medicine**

April 3<sup>rd</sup> (week 12)—Ethics & Medicine Guest Speaker—assigned reading for the unit

April 5<sup>th</sup> (week 12)—Second Critical Essay due April 5<sup>th</sup>

April 10<sup>th</sup> (Week 13)

**Final Exam Review**—April 12<sup>th</sup> (week 13)

**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

<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 Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

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 on the same page.

## 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**

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 or other electronic devices that disrupts other students.