

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION
Philosophy 3850 (3 credits)

Workplace, Business, and Professional Ethics

UT (UA, UC, UL, KUC, CU, CUC, AU)
Course Outline Fall 2010

Instructor: Tom Enders, PhD

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Office: C303

Office hours: Mondays 3 – 4:30 p.m., Fridays 1:30 – 3p.m.,
and by appointment

Room:

Time:

Prerequisite: None

Required Readings:

- Tom Beauchamp, Norman Bowie & Denis Arnold, editors.
Ethical Theory and Business, 8th edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey:
Pearson Prentice Hall 2009.
- Selected readings from the internet and databases, as well as handouts.

Calendar Course Description:

This course will analyze arguments concerning the morality of such topics as: environmental pollution, professional ethics, health and safety in the workplace, employee loyalty, racism and sexism in the workplace, advertising ethics, deception in business.

Course Description 2010:

People acting in a number of different capacities in the economy need to make a variety of ethical decisions. They face challenges such as: whether to blow the whistle on coworkers or an employer, take advantage of inside information, favour friends and relatives or select members of disadvantaged groups in hiring, copy intellectual property without permission, mislead and manipulate when advertising a product, monitor employee communications and drug use, and many more. This course will examine arguments concerning morally or ethically right, wrong and acceptable courses of action which people may consider taking when dealing with issues such as these.

Contact Hours:

PH3850 is a three credit course with three hours of instructional time in most weeks.

Delivery Mode:

Classroom time will be used for lectures and discussions.

Course Objectives:

- to familiarize you with philosophical concepts, theories and approaches that writers use when addressing issues in business and professional ethics
- to consider the nature and extent of moral obligations of people in a variety of economic roles or capacities including: employer, employee, professional, consumer, investor and citizen
- to assist you in developing your ability to analyze and evaluate issues, and work towards your own carefully reasoned resolution of some of them.

Note on Transferability:

Students should check with other institutions concerning transfer of credits as all arrangements are subject to change. Note that a grade of D or D+ may not be accepted at other post-secondary institutions.

Course Requirements:

First exam.....	25%
First short paper.....	15%
Second paper	25%
Final exam.....	35%

* You are expected to reference sources fully and properly for assignments. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with College calendar information pertaining to cheating and plagiarism, for which there are a range of penalties depending upon the severity of the offense. All penalties are significant.

*Students who miss an excessive number of classes may be denied the opportunity to write the final exam, as stated in the Calendar.

**You are strongly advised to keep a copy of your own of any written work you submit for grading.

**You are expected to write the final exam on the date it is scheduled. Take this into account when making any December travel plans.

Marks will be given in percentage figures before conversion to a letter grade.

Conversion table:

A+ 90-100	B+ 76-79	C+ 67-69	D+ 55-59
A 85- 89	B 73-75	C 64-66	D 50-54
A- 80- 84	B- 70-72	C- 60-63	F 0-49

Provisional List of Course Topics [note: Topics X, XI and XII are dependent upon time availability]

I. Introduction.

A. Philosophy and reading philosophy.

B. Business, the workplace and the marketplace and ethics.

C. Law and ethics. Relativism. Psychological and Ethical Egoism. Ethical Theories or Perspectives. Consequentialism and utilitarianism. Nonconsequentialism and natural law, natural rights and Kant. Social contract theory. Feminist ethics. Virtue ethics.

II. Capitalism and Free Markets: justifications and critiques. Contract, rights and utility.

III. Social responsibility of business. Is the main responsibility of business to make a profit? Shareholders and stakeholders.

IV. Professionals and Ethics. Responsibilities of Professionals. Offers of gifts.

V. Whistleblowing. When is it permissible? When is it an obligation?

VI. Privacy. Why is privacy important? Employee, consumer and public privacy.

VII. Discrimination in the workplace and related topics. A. Sexual Harassment. B. Affirmative Action or Employment Equity. Hiring criteria.

VIII. Advertising and Marketing. Honesty and disclosure. Lifestyle advertising.

IX. Intellectual Property. Patents, copyright and trade secrets. Pharmaceuticals, music and film recordings, and computer software.

X. Executive Compensation. Do corporate executives earn too much? On what basis should they be paid?

XI. The Natural Environment and Business. Automobiles, cruise ships, climate change, sustainability and more.

XII. Global Issues. Sweatshop and Child Labour. Relativism and Human Rights. Globalization and Justice.