



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)

ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY
PHIL 333 Professional Ethics (3 credits)

Course Outline Winter 2014

Instructor: Tom Enders, PhD

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Office: C303

Office hours: TBA and by appointment

Room:

Time:

Prerequisite: None

Required Readings:

- Tom Beauchamp, Norman Bowie & Denis Arnold, editors.
Ethical Theory and Business, 9th edition. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey:
Pearson Prentice Hall 2013.
- Selected readings from the internet and databases, Moodle postings and handouts.

GPRC 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 2014:

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, select members of disadvantaged groups in hiring, copy intellectual property without permission, take advantage of inside information, fail to reveal or mislead when advertising a product or

promoting an investment, 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, adviser 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 devote time in the classroom to the class itself. Use of cell phones, and use of laptops for nonclass purposes, is unacceptable. It is also not acceptable to socialize or do other work on this course or work on other courses during the class.

* 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, at least until it is returned to you.

**You are expected to write the final exam on the date it is scheduled. Take this into account when making any 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 – with tentative dates

9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28 January

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.

30 January

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

4, 6 February

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

FIRST EXAM: Tuesday, 11 February

13, 25 Feb.

IV. Introduction to Professionals and Ethics. Responsibilities of Professionals. Ethical Issues in Finance and Accounting.

27 Feb., 4 March

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

6, 11 March

VI. Privacy and confidentiality. Why are they important? Employee, client, consumer and public privacy.

13, 18 March

VII. Diversity, discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace.

20, 25 March

VIII. Advertising and Marketing. Truth-telling, honesty and disclosure. Lifestyle advertising.

27 March, 1 April

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

3, 8 April

X. Global Issues. Sweatshop and Child Labour. Business Responses. Relativism and Human Rights. Globalization and Justice.

10 April

XI. [Time permitting] The Natural Environment and Business. Sustainability. Climate Change.