



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2017

PH1010 (A2): Introduction to Philosophy: Values and Society - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tina Strasbourg **PHONE:** 780-539-2237
OFFICE: C408 **E-MAIL:** tstrasbourg@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Monday/Wednesday 11:30 to 12:30
Tuesday/Thursday 2:30 to 3:30

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This is an introduction to the classical problems of philosophy through study and critical discussion of selected philosophical classics and contemporary works. Emphasis will be placed on questions of moral and other values and on the nature of society and justice.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

James Rachels and Stuart Rachels. *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, 8th edition. New York: McGraw Hill Education, 2015.

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 analysis of ethical theories and their application to moral issues.

3. To examine assumptions, values, goals, principles and actions as they affect society as a whole.
4. To gain an understanding of the effect of individual and social moral decisions.
5. To enhance awareness and increase understanding of the nature of 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: UA, UC, UL, AU, AF, CU, GMU, KUC, Other

***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:

Participation	10%	
Critical Comment Essay #1	20%	Due date: October 19th
Mid-term Exam	20%	In Class: October 31st
Critical Comment Essay #2	20%	Due date: November 23 rd
Final Exam	30%	Due date: TBA

Class Participation:

Participation in discussion is a way to help advance the discussion of difficult philosophical concepts and encourage others. More particularly, discussion helps to enhance one’s understanding of philosophical concepts, and offers a venue for critical analysis of your own arguments.

Critical Comment Essays: 20% each (2-3 pages in length, double-spaced with one-inch margins).

1. Your essay will be a short philosophical discussion and critique of one of the assigned topics. **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. You will be expected to use grammar, punctuation, and spelling appropriate for a university level course.
4. You will be deducted marks if your essay does not reference at least one academic article from the course material.
5. 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:

Students should be prepared to answer questions from material covered in class, which includes lectures, in-class discussion and course readings. It is therefore to students’ advantage to attend every class.

Final exam:

The registered final exam will have a format similar to the mid-term. Students will have 3 hours to write the final exam. Please check the registrar’s posting for a schedule of final examinations.

Alternative arrangements for writing a missed exam may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Deferrals may only be granted in extenuating circumstances such as extreme illness or other serious circumstances beyond the student’s control. Work commitments, holidays or traffic are not considered legitimate reasons for missing an exam.

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: This is a tentative schedule only. No doubt unanticipated discussions/topics will arise (at least if we are doing it right they will), we’ll fall behind and some thing(s) will have to be moved or dropped.

Week 1: August 31st

Administrative

Week 2: September 5th and 7th

Introduction to Philosophy

Rachels, Chapter 1

Week 3: September 12th and 14th

Plato, "Euthyphro"—Moodle

Rachels, Chapter 4

Week 4: September 19th and 21st

Library Tutorial: How to Write a Philosophy Paper

Rachels, Chapter 2

Week 5: September 26th and 28th

Rachels, Chapter 7 and 8.1

Jeremy Bentham, "Pleasure as the Good"—Moodle

John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism"—Moodle

Week 6: October 3rd and 5th

John Stuart Mill—continued

Rachel, Chapter 8.2 to 8.6

Week 7: October 10th and 12th

Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"—Moodle

Week 8: October 17th and 19th

Robert Nozick, "The Experience Machine"—Moodle

First Critical Comment Essay Due on October 19th

Week 9: October 24th and 26th

Immanuel Kant, "Morality and Rationality"—Moodle

Week 10: October 31st and November 2nd

In class midterm: October 31st

Rachels, Chapter 9

Week 11: November 7th and 9th

John Rawls, "Justice as Fairness"—Moodle

Week 12: November 14th and 16th

Thomas Hobbes, "Leviathan"—Moodle

Rachels, Chapter 6

Week 13: November 21st and 23rd

Rachels, Chapter 11

Second Critical Comment Essay Due on November 23rd

Week 14: November 28th and 30th

Virginia Held, “The Meshing of Care and Justice”—Moodle

Week 15: December 5th and 7th

Judith Jarvis Thompson, “In Defense of Abortion”—Moodle

Review Final Exam

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.