



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2014**

**PH1010 (A2) Introduction to Philosophy: Values and Society – 3 (3-0-0)**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dennis Whitling      **PHONE:** 780 532 7721 (Ext. 1151)  
**OFFICE:** GPCHS Room 56      **E-MAIL:** dgwhitling@gmail.com

**OFFICE HOURS:** By arrangement with instructor.

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** NONE

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:** LaFollette: *Ethics in Practice: An Anthology*

**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.

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

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Lecture & Discussion

**OBJECTIVES:** The course aims at familiarizing students with the basic theories of moral philosophy and how they relate to current moral and political issues. After completing this course they should be able to:

1. Identify traditional types of moral reasoning

2. Analyze ethical arguments based upon such reasoning
3. Clarify their own views on contemporary moral issues
4. Defend their views with cogent reasoning

**TRANSFERABILITY:**

UA, UC, UL, AU, GMU, CU, KUC, & Augustana

\*\*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 <sup>+</sup>	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A <sup>-</sup>	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B <sup>+</sup>	3.3	77 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 76	GOOD
B <sup>-</sup>	2.7	70 – 72	
C <sup>+</sup>	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C <sup>-</sup>	1.7	60 – 62	
D <sup>+</sup>	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:**

Minor Assignments*	25%
Major Assignment**	25%
Mid-Term	20%
Final Exam	30%

\*The minor Assignments consist of two research sheets involving current research and its relation to authors in the textbook.

\*\*The major Assignment consists of an analytical paper involving current events, authors treated in the course and the student's views.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

The assigned readings for each class should be completed before attending that class, except for the first class. As this course will depend heavily practice exercises, attendance at all sessions is required and is critical to the student's success in the course. In case of illness or emergency, notify the instructor as soon as possible. If you find yourself having difficulty in this course, please contact the instructor immediately for assistance. If you simply want more discussion with the instructor about any aspect of the course, please visit my office during office hours or at a more convenient pre-arranged time.

If a student is unable to attend an in-class test or quiz, the instructor must be advised before the test/quiz is administered. Voice mail or e-mail notification is fine. The test/quiz will usually then be written at a later time at the testing center or pre-arranged location. Failure to notify the instructor of an absence will result in a grade of 0 on that test/quiz.

It is expected that all students will display a professional attitude and behaviour in the classroom. This includes reliability, respect for and cooperation with your fellow students and the instructor, attention to fellow student questions and instructor's response, determination to achieve first-class work while meeting deadlines, and constructive response to criticism.

## **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at [www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/\\*\\*](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/**)

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

Sep. 4-23: Ethical Theory: Readings & Lecture deal with types of moral philosophy such as Kantian deontology, utilitarianism, human rights and virtue theory.  
[Text Part I, Additional readings from Plato, Aristotle, Kant & Mill]

Sep. 25, 30, Oct.2: Problems related to euthanasia and abortion. First assignment distributed. [Text, Part II, Chs. 5-14]

Oct.7: The rights of animals. First assignment is due. [Text Part II, Chs. 15-19]

Oct.9, 14: Families and children. [Text, Part III, Chs.20-23]

Oct.16: Medical Technology and Ethics, Review for Mid-Term. [Text, Part IV, Chs.24-28]

Oct.21: MID-TERM

Oct.23, 28: The scope & limits of human rights. [Text, Part IV, Chs. 31-34, 35-39]

Oct.30, Nov.4: Discrimination and Affirmative Action [Text, Part IV, Chs. 40-47]

Nov.6: Justice and Punishment. Second Assignment Distributed. [Part V, Chs. 51-52]

Nov.13: Morality and Economics [Text, Part V, Chs. 53-56]

Nov. 18, 20, 25: Environmental Obligations and Rights. Second assignment due on Nov.18. [Text, Part V, Chs. 61-64]

Nov.27, Dec.2: The Morality of Warfare [Text, Part V, Chs. 65-67]

Dec.4, 9: Poverty, Hunger and Morality [Text, Part V, Chs. 57-59]

Dec.11: Review

**Additional Information:**

Major assignment may be handed in on the last day of class or at the Final Exam.