



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2015

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

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tom Enders **PHONE:** 780 539
OFFICE: C-415 **E-MAIL:** tenders@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: By arrangement with instructor.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: NONE

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Hugh LaFollette: *Ethics in Practice: An Anthology, 4th edition*. Malden, MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2014.
- Moodle postings, selected internet readings and handouts.

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:

This course is designed to introduce you to the study of Philosophy through examination of notable works of classical and modern philosophical thought which

deal with values, the individual, the family and society. Some works address basic questions about human nature, individual rights and freedoms, and responsibilities to others and society. Others focus on related moral, social, political and economic issues, such as issues connected to hate speech, recreational drug use, pornography, rape, euthanasia, abortion, climate change, world hunger and additional topics. All of the readings help to demonstrate the relevance, importance and depth of philosophical inquiry.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

After successfully completing this course, you should be able to:

- describe and explain some of the great ideas of some of the greatest philosophers
- understand, assess and apply some basic concepts, theories and approaches in moral philosophy or ethics
- comprehend and consider carefully arguments of philosophers who address current moral issues involving the individual and society
- make use of philosophers' discussions to assist you to formulate and defend well thought-out arguments of your own on the issues
- if you so decide, move on to further studies in Philosophy - with greater facility and acuity.

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:

Alpha Grade	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	Percentage Guidelines
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	00-49

EVALUATIONS:

First paper	15%
Second paper	20%
Mid-Term	30%
Final Exam	35%

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

* You are expected to devote time in the classroom to the class itself. Use of cell phones, tablets and laptops for non-class purposes is unacceptable. It is also not acceptable to socialize or do work on other courses (or even *other* work for this course) during the class.

* You are strongly advised to keep a copy of your own of any work you submit for grading at least until you have your work returned to you.

** 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 expected to write the final exam when scheduled by the Registrar's Office - with possible exceptions in the case of compelling and urgent circumstances beyond your control. Take this into account when making any travel plans. Also note and observe other key dates during the term as provided in the Calendar.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

* You are required to reference sources fully and properly for written assignments. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with College Calendar information pertaining to cheating and plagiarism, for which there are various penalties depending on the severity of the offense. See College calendar, pages 42-43. You can also refer to the College Policy on Student Conduct at https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/forms_documents/Student_Misconduct.pdf

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Weeks 1 and 2 –

I. Introduction. What is philosophy? Branches of philosophy. Reading philosophy. Arguments and criteria for arguments, etc.

Week 3

II. Human Nature and Fulfillment. Relevant ideas of Thomas Hobbes, John Stuart Mill and Aristotle.

Weeks 4 and 5

III. Moral Theories or Approaches. The nature of morality and ethics. Insufficient approaches connected to ideas about law and morality, religion and morality, and relativism. Major moral outlooks –with criteria for deciding what are morally right and wrong actions. Virtue ethics.

Tuesday 13 October: FIRST EXAM

Weeks 6, 7 and 8

IV. Individual Freedoms, Rights and Society. John Stuart Mill on liberty. How far do individual rights and freedoms – and responsibilities – extend? Sex, drugs and more!

Weeks 9, 10 and 11

V. The Individual, Friends, Family and Society. Friendship. Parents and children. Euthanasia. Abortion. Climate change and future generations.

Weeks 12 and 13

VI. Economic Justice and Obligations. Principles of economic justice. Individual property rights. Marx and the social side. World hunger and poverty. Global justice.

Week 14 (time permitting)

Concluding topic from among those not covered earlier including gun control, punishment, capital punishment, animal rights, the environment, terrorism...

FINAL EXAM – on a date scheduled by the Registrar's Office.