



Grande Prairie Regional College
Department of Business and Office Administration

COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2016
BA 2000 Contemporary Issues in Business
3(3-1-0) UT [60 hours]

Instructor	Cibylla Rakestraw	Phone	Office: 780-539-2873
Office	C205		Cell: 780-512-5129
Office Hours	Mondays from 12:00 – 1:30 pm, Fridays from 10:30 – 12:00 pm By appointment at other times or on a drop in basis if I'm free	Email:	crakestraw@gprc.ab.ca

Calendar Description:

Through a seminar approach, this course explores the many ethical dimensions of business and includes a major group project for which class time is allotted.

Prerequisite(s)/co-requisite(s):

Business Administration Certificate or the consent of the instructor

Required Text/Resource Materials:

There is no required text for this course.

Credit/Contact Hours:

BA2000 consists of four hours weekly – though time is spent in non-traditional ways. Class time will be used for both “contemporary issues in business” and “conference planning.”

Delivery Mode(s):

As the name of the course suggests, the course includes an in-depth look at ethical and policy related matters, as well as globalization theory and issues. Through an intense

“Readers’ Response” journaling curriculum and teaching practice, students are introduced to critical and creative thinking and the many problems/ uncertainties/ complexities that mark the terrain of living and working in an age of globalization. As well, the course also attempts to integrate theory and practice by involving students in a major practical project – the planning and execution of the annual Department-wide Business Conference.

Course Objectives:

- To develop critical/creative thinking skills
- To enhance research/observation skills
- To gain an appreciation of ethical implications of business policy
- To garner an appreciation of globalization processes
- To serve as a capstone marketing experience integrating knowledge from other courses and disciplines
- To improve presentation and facilitation skills
- To experience a major project involving “real life” risks and opportunities
- To enhance project management skills
- To enhance team skills

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to

- Demonstrate competency in critical thinking by effectively researching, debating and presenting the complexities of a number of business issues from a variety of perspectives
- Make a substantial organizational and strategic contribution to the development of the Business Conference
- Demonstrate effective teamwork skills through the organization of the Business Conference
- Demonstrate good writing skills

Transferability:

Transfer agreements with the following institutions:

- Athabasca University: ADMN 2xx (3)
- DeVry Institute of Technology - Calgary: BUSN 2TR (3)
- MacEwan University: BUSN 1xx (3)

** 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:

Please note that Universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**. This means **DO NOT GET LESS THAN "C-" IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO TRANSFER TO UNIVERSITY.**

Grades will be assigned on the Letter Grading System.

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

Academic journal responses to seminar topics	30%
Book review & presentation	10%
Active & effective participation in class debates	20%
Major project – contribution toward the Business Conference including written reports pre-conference and e-mails sent to the group through the planning stages	25%
Evaluation of the major project	5%
Final exam	10%
Attendance at the Business Conference in its entirety. Please note that the Conference is on March 17,2016	Credit or non-credit

Examinations:

There is one final examination for this course.

Course Schedule/ Tentative Timeline:

Week 1	Introduction to journal writing and critical thinking. Begin planning Business Conference.
Week 2	Review of 1 st film
Week 3	Business Conference planning 1 st debate
Week 4	Review of 2 nd film
Week 5	Business Conference planning 2 nd debate
Week 6	Review of 3 rd film
Week 7	Reading Week
Week 8	Business Conference planning 3 rd debate
Week 9	Review of 4 th film
Week 10	Business Conference planning 4 th debate
Week 11	Business Conference Planning GPRC Business Conference
Week 12	Review of 5 th film
Week 13	Conference review & follow up 5 th debate Final exam

The above schedule is subject to change depending on the needs of the class and the conference planning process.

Student Responsibilities:

The Academic Journal

A major portion of the mark in BA2000 is based on entries in an academic journal. The entries will be due weekly during the Thursday class – focused on the seminar topic covered in the previous week. Students are expected to explore other perspectives of the issues explored through research. Because of the process involved, journal entries will not be accepted late. The entries should be word processed – about 750 words as a minimum length. One of the early classes in the semester will deal specifically with journal writing and critical thinking to assist you in your journal writing.

The GPRC Business Conference

Students in BA2000 plan, organize, and present the GPRC Business Conference on March 17th. This conference is attended by all GPRC Business Administration, Commerce, and Hospitality and Tourism students as well as many Fitness Leadership students and student from area high schools. The project includes organizing the day, a meal for all attendees, breakout sessions, and presentations in the theatre including a keynote speaker .

Statement on Plagiarism:

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 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/**

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

Course Policies:

It is critical and crucial that you attend each planning meeting with your team in reference to the Business Conference. And, it is equally critical that you attend each of the seminar presentations because it will be impossible to write a response to something you have not heard. Should you miss a class, I will ask you to sign an attendance contract. Subsequent absences may result in your withdrawal from the course.

It is expected that class lab hours will be dedicated toward committee work on the Business Conference.

Class records will be maintained for 30 days after the last class. These records will then be destroyed in a secure manner. Any unclaimed student paper or assignments will be destroyed within 30 days of the last class. Selected student projects may be kept and used for a variety of purposes – provided that consent has been granted by the student(s) involved.