

**GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION**

**PH1010
Introduction to Philosophy: Values and Society 3 (3-0-0) UT
Fall 2003**

Instructor: Ruth Michaels
Office: C212
Office Hours: Tues./ Thurs. 0830-0950

Phone: 539-2866
email: rmichaels@gprc.ab.ca
Lecture, no prerequisites

Calendar Description

This is an introduction to some of the classical problems of philosophy. We will seek to identify and understand some classic philosophical problems as they arise under three categories of human values: morality, science and religion. Our focus will be on the nature of each of these categories and on critiques of each category as human value. That is, we will ask the questions What is morality? What is science? What is religion? and Why be moral? What is truth in science? Is religion an illusion? We will also examine some philosophical problems that arise in the relationships between these values in society.

Content Description

We will seek to identify and understand some classic philosophical problems as they arise under three categories of human values: morality, science and religion. Our focus will be on the nature of each of these categories and on critiques of each category as human value. That is, we will ask the questions What is morality? What is science? What is religion? and Why be moral? What is truth in science? Is religion an illusion? We will also examine some philosophical problems that arise in the relationships between these values in society

Texts

- Arthur, Shapiro & Throop, *Reason and Culture: An Introduction to Philosophy* (required)
- *The Little Brown Book* (or equivalent writing handbook) (required)

Timeline

(A detailed syllabus will be provided on the first day of classes.)

Weeks One-Five: Morality

Weeks Six-Ten: Science

Weeks Eleven-Fourteen: Religion

Evaluation

ALL assigned work must be completed and submitted to achieve a passing grade in the course.

- 2 journal assignments (1 double-spaced page)..for feedback only.....0%
- 1 short paper (5 double-spaced pages).....10%
- 1 term paper (8-10 double-spaced pages).....30%
- 4 take-home assignments.....20%
- Midterm examination.....20%
- Final, registrar scheduled, examination.....20%

Evaluation Policies

Extensions of assignment and paper deadlines will be considered *only* in the case of significant extenuating circumstances. If such circumstances arise students requesting an extension will be required to show evidence that a significant amount of work on the assignment has been completed in advance of the day *before* the work is due. For example, if a student requests an extension on the day before an assignment is due, a complete, or very nearly complete, draft of the paper must be shown to the instructor at the time of the request.

Students in circumstances of extreme duress should notify the instructor as soon as possible if they anticipate difficulty in submitting their work on time.

Penalties for assignments submitted for credit late without prior permission from the instructor are at the discretion of the instructor and may accrue at as much as **25% for each day late**.

Deferred writing of a scheduled Midterm Exam is at the discretion of the instructor. Absences from a registrar-scheduled Final Exam fall under GPRC Examination Policy. It is the responsibility of the student to be informed about these policies prior to the final examination period. A description of the policy is available in the GPRC Calendar and in the Student Handbook.

Absences

Students should be aware that they are expected to meet their academic responsibility to attend classes. The instructor reserves the right to debar a student from writing the final exam when the student has accumulated more than 10% (2-3 classes) of *unexcused* absences. Absences will be excused on the basis of *verifiable illness, dentistry, accident or emergency*. If any student is unable to attend a particular class it is his/her responsibility to ascertain what has been missed. In addition, students should not make plans for travel, holidays, employment etc. which will interfere with their writing of exams during any scheduled examination time.

Plagiarism and Cheating

Students are encouraged to form study and discussion groups, however, assignments must be the independent work of the individual seeking credit for the assignments and students should be prepared to demonstrate that the work they turn in is their own. All forms of plagiarism and

cheating are serious violations of academic integrity and will be dealt with as such. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with GPRC policy on plagiarism and cheating as outlined under *Student Responsibilities* and *Plagiarism and Cheating* in the Student Handbook.