



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE - Winter 2015

PH3330 (A3) / PHIL333 (AU): Professional Ethics - 3 (3-0-0) 45

Hours

INSTRUCTOR: Tom Enders, PhD PHONE: 780-539-2996
OFFICE: C-303 E-MAIL: tenders@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: TBA and by appointments

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: none

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

- Fritz Allhoff & Anand Vaidya, editors. *Professions in Ethical Focus: An Anthology*. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2008.
- Selected readings from the internet and databases, Moodle postings and handouts.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine the roles and responsibilities of professionals, as well as ethical challenges they face. These challenges often involve balancing self-interest, clients' interests, and the public good. At times they involve weighing clients' interests and clients' wishes (and their autonomy.) They may also involve efforts to resolve conflicts between the professional's personal moral beliefs and their perceived duties as professionals. Challenges and issues will be explored through consideration of debates within specific fields (such as accounting, medicine, engineering, journalism and law) - often with relevance across professions. Controversies will also be investigated through study of general discussions of common concerns. Ethical concepts and outlooks will provide assistance in facing the challenges.

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

DELIVERY MODE(S): Lectures and discussions.

OBJECTIVES:

- to familiarize you with philosophical concepts, theories and approaches that writers use when addressing issues in professional ethics
- to introduce you to thoughtful writings on issues in professional ethics
- to assist you in developing your ability to analyze and evaluate arguments and positions on issues
- to help you work towards your own carefully reasoned resolution of some selected issues.

TRANSFERABILITY: AU, UA, UC, MRU

* Students should check with other institutions concerning transfer of credits as all arrangements are subject to change. Note that a grade of D or D+ may not be accepted at other post-secondary institutions.

GRADING CRITERIA:

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A⁺	4.0	90 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	85 – 89	
A⁻	3.7	80 – 84	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B⁺	3.3	76 – 79	
B	3.0	73 – 75	GOOD
B⁻	2.7	70 – 72	
C⁺	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	64 – 66	
C⁻	1.7	60 – 63	
D⁺	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

EVALUATION:

First exam.....	25%
First short paper.....	20%
Second paper	20%
Final exam.....	35%

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

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

* You are expected to reference sources fully and properly for assignments. You are responsible for familiarizing yourself with College calendar information pertaining to cheating and plagiarism, for which there are a range of penalties depending upon the severity of the offense. All penalties are significant.

*Students who miss an excessive number of classes (i.e. more than six without reasonable justification such as illness) may be denied the opportunity to write the final exam, as stated in the Calendar.

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

**You are expected to write the final exam on the date it is scheduled. Take this into account when making any travel plans.

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. 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/>

Details of this course outline are subject to change. Any changes will be discussed in class.

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

12, 16, 19, 23, 26 January

I. Introduction.

A. Philosophy and reading philosophy. Arguments and criteria for good arguments.

B. Morality, law, religion, relativism and liberalism.

C. Moral or Ethical Theories or Outlooks. Consequentialist vs. nonconsequentialist perspectives. Virtue ethics.

30 January, 2, 6 February

II. Introduction to Professional Ethics.

A. Roles and responsibilities of professionals.

B. Codes of Ethics and professions.

C. Privacy and confidentiality.

9, 13, 23 February

III. Medical Ethics. What is the best model of the doctor-patient relationship? (with implications for other professional-client relationships). Possibly conflicting obligations to tell the truth, benefit patients, do no harm and respect confidentiality. Conflicts between personal moral convictions and professional responsibilities – of doctors, nurses and pharmacists.

Friday 27 February – **Midterm Exam**

2, 6, 9 March

IV. Ethical Issues in Accounting and Finance. Conflicts of interest including those involving accountants, accounting firms, clients, and the public. Challenges pertaining to confidentiality. Lessons from corporate scandals.

13, 16 March

V. Engineering Ethics. More challenges involving potential conflicts of interests. Lessons from noted cases. Whistleblowing and engineering. Whistleblowing, loyalty and anonymity and other matters of relevance to many professions including medicine and finance. Promotion of virtues as a response to challenges.

20, 23, 27 March

VI. Journalism Ethics. Assessment of objectivity as a goal. How far should neutrality extend? Confidentiality once again. Respecting privacy of politicians and other public figures.

30 March, 6, 10 April

VII. Legal Ethics. Confidentiality. Truth-telling, disclosure and non-disclosure. Defending the accused in an adversarial system. Whose interests are to be served, how? Is there a duty to represent?

13 April

VIII. Concluding observations and discussions with respect to specific professions and professions in general.