



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2016**

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

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Tom Enders                      **PHONE:** 780 539-2996  
**OFFICE:** C-415    **E-MAIL:** tenders@gprc.ab.ca

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

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

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

- Lewis Vaughn, *Contemporary Moral Arguments: Readings in Ethics Issues*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Oxford University Press, New York, 2013.
- 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. We will explore basic questions about human nature, happiness and fulfillment, individual rights and freedoms, and responsibilities to others and society. We will examine related moral, social, political and economic issues, such as issues connected to recreational drug use and paternalism, date rape, prostitution, euthanasia, abortion, and world hunger. All of the readings should help you to gain an appreciation of the relevance of philosophical inquiry for our individual and collective lives. They should also give you awareness of the importance of the work of philosophers for other areas of study, including economics, political science, and psychology among others.

### **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
- comprehend and carefully interpret and assess arguments of philosophers who address current moral issues involving the individual and society
- understand, evaluate and apply some basic concepts, theories and approaches in moral philosophy or ethics
- 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.

You should also have acquired more advanced general skills useful for work in many academic areas as well as fields of employment. These include abilities to make key distinctions, identify and solve problems and challenges, and think clearly, concisely, precisely, logically, systematically – and creatively, too. You should be able to reason, argue and communicate more knowingly and effectively.

### **TRANSFERABILITY:**

UA, UC, UL, AU, MU, 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 (i.e. more than six) 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 presented in the Calendar.

**STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

\* You are required to reference sources fully and properly for written assignments. You are also responsible for familiarizing yourself with College

Calendar information pertaining to cheating and plagiarism, what they are and which penalties are to be applied. They will not be tolerated. See the College Policy on Student Misconduct. You can find it (as well as all Academic and Administrative policies) at:

<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

Note that instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.

### **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 and 4

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

Weeks 5 and 6

**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 18 October: FIRST EXAM

Weeks 7, 8 and 9

**IV. Individual Freedoms, Rights and Society.** Individual rights and freedoms, respect, paternalism, and collective responsibilities. Issues such as legalization of recreational drugs, responsibility for date rape, and acceptability of prostitution and pornography.

Weeks 10 and 11

**V. The Individual, Friends, Family and Society.** Friendship. Children's obligations to parents. Issues pertaining to euthanasia and (time permitting) abortion.

Weeks 12 and 13 (selected topics)

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

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