



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2019

PH1010 (A2): Introduction to Philosophy: Values and Society - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tina Strasbourg **PHONE:** 780-539-2237
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OFFICE HOURS: Monday/Wednesday 11:30 to 12:30
Tuesday/Thursday 2:30 to 3:30

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.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

James Rachels and Stuart Rachels. *The Elements of Moral Philosophy*, 9th edition. New York: McGraw Hill Education, 2018.

Resource Materials links posted on Moodle.

DELIVERY MODE (S): Lectures and discussions

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To gain an understanding of important historical approaches to ethics.
2. To develop critical thinking and problem solving skills through the analysis of ethical theories and their application to moral issues.

3. To examine assumptions, values, goals, principles and actions as they affect society as a whole.
4. To gain an understanding of the effect of individual and social moral decisions.
5. To enhance awareness and increase understanding of the nature of ethics.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The learning outcomes stressed in this course are Communication Skills, Thinking Skills and Ethical Reasoning.

1. Students will use **Communication Skills** in

- Communicating clearly and concisely employing written and verbal skills appropriate to class assignments and discussion
- Demonstrating interpersonal skills by listening effectively, establishing rapport, monitoring non-verbal signals
- Expressing awareness of, and respect for self and others
- See section on Philosophical Etiquette for a further description

2. Students will use **Thinking Skills** in

- Analyzing theoretical concepts and examining the connections between them
- Critically assessing philosophical theories and arguments in support of these theories

3. Students will use **Ethical Reasoning** in

- Applying ethical reasoning to practical situations
- Recognizing and examining multiple perspectives
- Analyzing and discussing issues from an ethical perspective

TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UC, UL, AU, AF, CU, GMU, KUC, Other

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.**

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide at

<http://transferalberta.alberta.ca/transfer-alberta-search/#/audienceTypeStep>

** 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.**

EVALUATIONS:

Participation	10%	
Mid-term Exam	20%	In-class: October 24th
Critical Comment Outline	15%	Due date: November 7 th
Critical Comment Essay	25%	Due date: November 28 th
Final Exam	30%	Due date: TBA

Class Participation:

Participation in discussion is a way to help advance the discussion of difficult philosophical concepts and encourage others. More particularly, discussion helps to enhance one's understanding of philosophical concepts, and offers a venue for critical analysis of your own arguments.

Critical Comment Outline

The purpose of the critical comment outline is to prepare you to write the essay and to get feedback prior to submission of your final draft. We will discuss the outline rubric and format in class prior to the due date.

Critical Comment Essay: 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced with one-inch margins.

1. Your essay will be a short philosophical discussion and critique of one of the assigned topics or a topic of your choosing. **Do not summarize the text.**
2. Your essay should have a clear, concise thesis statement. Think of a thesis statement as the conclusion for which you will build an argument in your critical essay. You will be deducted marks for not including a thesis statement.
3. You will be expected to use grammar, punctuation, and spelling appropriate for a university level course.
4. You will be deducted marks if your essay does not reference at least one academic article **from the course material.**
5. Use whichever citation style with which you are comfortable (just use it consistently and correctly). You will be deducted marks for incorrect citations.

In Class Mid-term Exam:

Students should be prepared to answer questions from material covered in class, which includes lectures, in-class discussion and course readings. It is therefore to students' advantage to attend every class.

Final exam:

The registered final exam will have a format similar to the mid-term. Students will have 3 hours to write the final exam. Please check the registrar's posting for a schedule of final examinations.

Alternative arrangements for writing a missed exam may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Deferrals may only be granted in extenuating circumstances such as extreme illness or other serious circumstances beyond the student's control. Work commitments, holidays or traffic are not considered legitimate reasons for missing an exam.

Note: Unless previously discussed, late work will be penalized in the absence of a valid excuse. The assignment grade will be reduced by 10% each day it is overdue, including weekends.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

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

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE: This is a tentative schedule only. No doubt unanticipated discussions/topics will arise (at least if we are doing it right they will), we'll fall behind and something(s) will have to be moved or dropped.

Week 1

Administrative

Week 2

Introduction to Philosophy

Rachels, Chapter 1—Introduction

Week 3

Rachels, Chapter 4—Morality and Religion

Rachels, Chapter 2—Relativism

Week 4

Rachels, Chapter 2—Relativism

Rachels, Chapter 7 and 8.1—Utilitarianism

Week 5

Jeremy Bentham, "Pleasure as the Good"—Moodle

John Stuart Mill, "Utilitarianism"—Moodle

Week 6

John Stuart Mill—continued

Rachel, Chapter 8.2 to 8.6

Week 7

Peter Singer, "Famine, Affluence, and Morality"—Moodle

How to write a philosophy outline and essay

Week 8

Midterm exam October 24th

Robert Nozick, "The Experience Machine"—Moodle

Week 9

October 29th Library Tutorial

Immanuel Kant, "Morality and Rationality"—Moodle

Week 10

Rachels, Chapter 9--Deontology

Critical Comment Outline is Due November 7th

Week 11

John Rawls, "Justice as Fairness"—Moodle

Thomas Hobbes, "Leviathan"—Moodle

Week 12

Rachels, Chapter 6--Contractarianism

Aristotle, "The Nicomachean Ethics"—Moodle

Week 13

Rachels, Chapter 12—Virtue Ethics

Rachels, Chapter 11—Feminist Ethics

Critical Comment Essay is Due November 28th

Week 14

Virginia Held, "The Meshing of Care and Justice"—Moodle

Review Final Exam

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Regular attendance and participation in discussion is expected. Participation is a way to help advance the discussion, gain understanding of course material and encourage others.
2. Please do not be late for class.
3. Students are expected to complete assigned readings before class. Do not fall behind in the assigned readings because it is difficult to catch up.
4. If students miss class, it is their responsibility to obtain lecture material and the reading assignment.
5. Policies regarding final exams are governed by college-wide policy. Students should consult the Examinations policy in the GPRC Calendar. In particular, student should consult the GPRC Calendar for any questions regarding deferred exams, but note that students are required to be available to write exams during the entire final exam period.

Refer to the College Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

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 section on Plagiarism and Cheating in the College policy titled Student Misconduct: Academic and Non-Academic at

(<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/fetch.php?ID=68>).

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.**

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

Additional Information:

Philosophical Etiquette

Contrary to popular belief philosophy is not a blood sport. A philosophical discussion should not be thought of as an opportunity to participate in arguments that are meant to crush one's opponent. Rather it is an opportunity, first and foremost, to gain an understanding of philosophical concepts. Second, it should inspire critical analysis of philosophical concepts. And finally, it should facilitate fruitful discussion. I expect all students to show good philosophical etiquette, which is to exhibit mutual respect for each other's ideas and comments and that people not be *purposefully* offensive.

Pet Peeves

Cell phones that ring during class or use of cell phones during class. The sound of binders closing and people packing-up books before I've indicated that the class is over. Trying to talk over people who are discussing their weekend plans during class time. Use of laptops or other electronic devices that disrupts other students.