

**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, COMMERCE AND EDUCATION**  
**Grande Prairie Regional College**

SEP. 07 2001

**PH 1010 Introduction to Philosophy: Values and Society 3 (3-0-0) UT**  
**Fall 2001**  
**Section B2**  
Mon. 6-8:50pm

**Instructor: Ruth Michaels**  
**Office: C212**  
**Office Hours: Mon. 10-12, Wed. 11-12**

**Phone Number: 539-2866**  
**email: rmichaels@gprc.ab.ca**  
**Lecture**

**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.

**Content Description**

In this course we will examine the philosophical concept of Value as it is embodied in the classic ethical theories of Aristotle, Hobbes, Hume, Kant and Mill. Consideration of the contemporary ethical theories of Ethical Subjectivism, Ethical Relativism, and the appropriate role of religious belief in morality will facilitate inquiry into the question of whether morality is subjective or objective. Value in the context of Society will be examined in the form of philosophical theories that prescribe the political relationship between values, such as liberty and justice, and Society. We will look at the classic views of Mill, Locke and Hume and the contemporary theories of Rawls and Dworkin. The course will conclude with consideration of how social values might be objective.

The philosophical methodology of Analysis will be used throughout the course. Analytical method pays close attention to understanding the meaning of the concepts being studied and tests the strengths of a philosophical position by subjecting it to rigorous counter-argument.

The primary goals of the course are to introduce the student to some of the most influential philosophical ethical and social theories in the history of Western thinking and to provide the student with the opportunity to learn and use the analytical methodology of philosophical practice.

**Timeline**

A detailed course syllabus will be distributed on the first day of classes. The assignment of topics to dates is tentative and subject to revision based on how students are managing with the previous material.

### **Texts (all required)**

Mill, John Stuart, *On Liberty*

Feinberg, Joel & Shafer-Landau, Russ, *Reason & Responsibility*, 11<sup>th</sup> edition

Course Page of selected readings available from the bookstore..

### **WebCT**

Students will have access to online threaded discussion of course materials. Topics for discussion will be suggested by the Instructor but students are encouraged to initiate discussion based on individual interests. Discussion contents may be viewed by the Instructor for the purpose of directing lecture materials and evaluating class needs for instruction on particular topics or concepts. Participation is optional and no marks are given for discussion entries. Instructional materials for using WebCT will be distributed in class. Additional assistance is also available on request from the library Computer Lab staff.

### **Evaluation**

- 10 short journal assignments based on weekly readings ..... 15%  
due in class on:

17 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	29 <sup>th</sup> Oct.
24 <sup>th</sup> Sept.	5 <sup>th</sup> Nov.
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct.	12 <sup>th</sup> Nov.
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	19 <sup>th</sup> Nov.
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct.	22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov.
- One short paper, 3-5 pages, due in class on 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2001..... 10%
- Midterm Exam, in class, 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct. 2001.....25%
- Term paper, 8-10 pages, due in class on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 2001 .....25%
- Final Exam , registrar scheduled,.....25%

**NOTE:** All deadlines for submission of course work and examination dates are tentative and subject to revision at the discretion of the Instructor.

### **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 are required to show evidence that a significant amount of work on the relevant assignment or paper 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 submitting their work on time.

**Penalties** for assignments/papers handed in late without prior permission from the Instructor will accrue at **25% for each day late**.