Oregon Institute of Technology
Department of Humanities & Social Sciences

PHIL 331. Ethics: Moral Issues in the Professions

Course Outline
Fall 2009

Instructor:	M. Dyrud
Office:	OW 109; 5-1504
Hours:	M-F 1-2; and by appointment
E-mail:	marilyn.dyrud@oit.edu
Texts:	Callahan, *Ethical Issues in Professional Life*
	Robinson and Garratt, *Introducing Ethics*
Supplies:	1 package 3 x 5 cards (for vocabulary and suggestion box)
	1 folder with pockets (for paper submissions and daily questions)
Videos:	*Titanic* (Cameron version); *A Night to Remember* (watch by 10/23)
	A Civil Action (watch by 11/2)

Date	Topic	Reading	Activity/Assignment
1 9/28-10/2	Introduction	*Case: Dax Cowart*	Video: "Dax's Case"
2 10/5-10/9	Professions & codes	Chapter 1, Callahan pp. 3-24, RG 1, Bayles 2, Hughes 3, Barber 51, May 52, Kultgen	**Organize project groups**
3 10/12-10/16	Codes Deception	pp. 25-51, RG 16, Ellin 17, Bok 18, Bok 19, Nelson	**Codes memo** Due: 10/12; RW: 10/26 **Daily questions** Due: 10/16
4 10/19-10/23	Finish deception	*Case: Titanic*	Video: "Titanica" **Reflection paper #1** Due: 10/23; RW: 11/9

Date	Topic	Reading	Activity/Assignment
5 10/26-30	Privacy/ confidentiality	pp. 51-94, RG 26, *Newsweek* 27, Parent 29, Bok	**Progress report #1** Due: 10/26; RW: 11/9 **Peer review #1**
6 11/2-11/6	Responsibility *A Civil Action* and Kohlberg	33, French 35, French	**Daily questions** Due: 11/2
7 11/9-11/13*	Whistleblowing	pp. 95-132, RG 40, James 41, Glazer	**Progress report #2** Due: 11/9; RW: 11/23 **Project draft** Due: 11/10-25
8 11/16-11/20	Whistleblowing	pp. 133-73, RG 42, Bok *Case: Challenger*	Video: "The Truth about Lies" **Reflection paper #2** Due: 11/16; RW: 11/30 **Peer review #2**
9 11/23-11/26*	Social responsibility	43, Friedman *Case: Enron*	Video: "The Smartest Guys in the Room"
10 11/30-12/4	Wrap-up Start presentations		**Daily questions** Due: 11/30 **Project** Due: 12/2
Finals 12/6-10	**Tuesday, Dec. 8** **8-10**		**Final peer review** Due: 12/8

* Holidays (W 11/11, W 11/25 (after 1 p.m.), F 11/27)

Important Notes

Welcome to the wonderful world of professional ethics! This course focuses on applied ethics—issues and situations that occur in the workplace—and is based on five objectives developed by an interdisciplinary team of college educators working through the Hastings Center, an ethics think tank:

▸ Stimulate our ethical imagination

▸ Help us recognize ethical issues

▸ Help us analyze relevant ethical concepts

▸ Stimulate our sense of responsibility

▸ Help us deal with ethical ambiguity and disagreement*

* See Michael S. Pritchard, "Professional Responsibility: Focusing on the Exemplary." *Science and Engineering Ethics* 4, no. 2 (April 1998): 215-33.

Attendance

This class will focus heavily on discussions, based on the readings and videos, so please make a special effort to be in class. While the usual three cuts are allowable, absences beyond that will affect your participation points. If special circumstances arise, please contact me. If you miss more than five classes, I will ask you to drop the course.

If the swine flu epidemic reaches major proportions on campus, we will implement Plan B in regards to attendance.

Please remember that if you miss a class, it is **your** responsibility to find out what happened. Make arrangements with a friend for notes and handouts.

Participation

Your verbal input and workshopping skills are valuable assets, and you are expected to contribute dynamically to discussions, both whole class and small group. You can add to course content by being alert in your general reading, television watching, and movie viewing . Readings will occasionally be supplemented with information relating to the cases noted on the course outline.

Papers and Presentations

You will be writing several papers this term and giving presentations, both formal and informal. Information about papers is detailed in a separate packet, and required work includes a term project, a memo about professional codes, two short progress reports, two short reflection papers, and responses to daily questions. The project and progress reports are group efforts; other work is individual.

You may rewrite all written materials, with the exception of daily questions and the final draft of the project, for a higher grade. Rewrites are due two weeks from the original submission date (see the course outline for specific dates). When you submit a paper, you will usually receive it back the next class day. Please use your folder with pockets for all paper submissions, except for the final project.

While most of your presentations this term will be informal, such as reporting the results of small group discussions, at the end of the quarter you are responsible for a 20-minute group presentation of your project (all group members participate). This constitutes your final exam for this course.

Academic Honesty

With the exception of the group projects, you are expected to do your own work in this class. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. (Remember: this is an ethics class!) If you plagiarize, you will receive a 0 and I will pursue disciplinary action as outlined in OIT's *Student Handbook*.

Suggestion Box

Often, students feel as if they have limited feedback opportunities regarding their classes. The suggestion box is your chance to rectify this! We will use the box in two ways:

▸ Unsolicited information regarding the course content, teaching, or anything else you feel pertinent (please avoid comments directed at specific individuals). Use your 3 x 5 cards for your comments and deposit them in the box on your way out of class.

▸ Solicited feedback requested by the instructor. I will occasionally ask you to write on your cards, such as something you have learned from that day's class, something you don't understand, comments regarding the readings, etc. Please leave your cards in the box on your way out.

Grading

Grading in this class is based on a real-world model, designed to help you achieve your best. All written work will be graded either as either *unacceptable* (revision necessary), *acceptable* (basically okay, but could use more refinement), or *excellent* (not perfect, but notable work). See the "Grading Criteria" handout for more detail. Please note that everyone in the group receives the same grade for progress reports.

Required Assignments

Codes memo	0-2-4	
Reflection papers (2)	0-3-6 (each)	
Progress reports (2)	0-1-2 (each)	
Daily questions	0 to 8 (all)	
Peer reviews (2)	0-1-2 (each)	
Project	0 to12	
Final presentation	0 to 8	
Participation	0 to 10	

Term Breakdown

A	56-62
B	48-55
C	39-47
D	34-38

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PHIL 331. Ethics in the Professions

Course Objectives

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to

▸ Demonstrate knowledge of central ethical principles and theories and their practical applications

▸ Distinguish between teleology and deontology

▸ Demonstrate familiarity with the code of ethics in their chosen profession

▸ Identify typical ethical issues in their chosen profession and other fields

▸ Work through a model for ethical decision-making

▸ Exercise the moral imagination

▸ Analyze cases for ethical issues

▸ Generate solutions for ethical problems

▸ Critically read a variety of articles analyzing ethical issues from differing perspectives

▸ Write reflection papers on the readings

▸ Work congenially and productively in groups

▸ Present information orally, both informally and formally

▸ Analyze in detail a high profile ethics case and produce a written report that demonstrates an understanding of the complexity of ethical problems

IDEA Center Objectives

▸ Learning fundamental principles, generalizations, or theories

▸ Learning to apply course materials (to improve thinking, problem solving, and decisions)

▸ Learning to analyze and *critically evaluate* ideas, arguments, and points of view