

COURSE OUTLINE

HUM 1155 – Ethics
Fall/2014

Lethbridge College inspires and facilitates learning and innovation to meet economic and social needs.

Centre: Applied Arts and Sciences

Instructor: Brad Wolcott

Office: TE 2245

Phone: 403- 320-3203 ext. 5721

Email:

brad.wolcott@lethbridgecollege.ca

Program: School of Liberal Arts

Instructor Availability:

Tuesday 2:00-3:20 PM

Thursday 9:00-11:00 AM

Friday 9:00-11:00 AM

Credits: 3

Chair: Cathy Takeda

Office: TE 2254

Phone: 403-320-3202 ext. 6924

Email: c.takeda@lethbridgecollege.ca

Dean: Dr. Sandy Vanderburgh

Office: CB 3027

Phone: 403-320-3202 ext.3241

Email:

sandy.vanderburgh@lethbridgecollege.ca

Class Time:

Monday 12:30 – 1:50 PM

Wednesday 12:30 – 1:50 PM

Location: AN 1705

Pre-Requisites:

None

Co-Requisites:

None

Open to Prior Learning Assessment:

Yes

Open to Supplemental Exam:

No

University Transfer: AU UA UC UL MU MRU (as of August 26, 2014)

(Please consult www.acat.gov.ab.ca for specific transfer requirements)

Course Catalog Description:

Ethics is a philosophy course that focuses on ethical theories and moral issues. The course has two aspects: one emphasizes meta-ethical thinking, or thinking about the nature of ethics itself, and one emphasizes ethical thinking, or thinking about what to do in a particular situation. The course is both theoretical and practical. The course has implications that will impact upon students as persons in their private or public lives. Service Learning opportunities may be available.

Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the difference in the terms good and right when used in a moral context and as the underpinnings for the teleological versus deontological distinction made in ethical thinking.
2. Explain distinctions in defining good, right, rights, duties, persons and be able to contrast various formulations of these terms by different moral philosophers.
3. Explain and distinguish between ethical theories: Divine Command Theory, Ethical Relativism, Ethical Egoism, Act Utilitarianism, Rule Utilitarianism, Contractarianism, Virtue Ethics, Kantian Ethics, Natural Law & Rights Theory, and Ethics of Care.
4. Describe the differences between a monistic, pluralistic and relativistic approach to understanding ethics.
5. Apply the various ethical theories in analyzing ethical arguments and contemporary moral issues such as: abortion, euthanasia, stem-cell research, cloning & genetic engineering, legal punishment, sexual morality, equality & discrimination, economic justice, global issues & globalization, environmental ethics, animal rights, and violence, terrorism & war.
6. Demonstrate respect, in written and oral communication, for the values and opinions of others in the process of exploring conflicting viewpoints while examining ethical issues

Course Format/Instructional Method:

This course is a lecture-based course. Students may be required to watch some videos outside of regularly scheduled class time.

Service Learning Option (SLO) is available for this course. Service Learning is a learning method and an educational experience in which learners actively participate in an organized service activity that meets community needs, provides work based experience, and helps to develop employability skills. One service learning experience equals 15 hours of service in a community agency.

Required Text(s) and Materials:

Mackinnon, Barbara. *Ethics: Theory and Contemporary Issues*. 8th edition. Boston: Wadsworth.

Recommended Text(s) and Materials:

Blackburn, Simon. *Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy*. 2nd edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Other Learning Resources:

Course Specific:

See course page on Angel (www.lconline.ca) for additional resources.

Learning Café

Students are encouraged to access the Learning Café (CE1340) for various free services, including academic tutoring support (online and face to face), APA documentation and study skills workshops, peer tutoring, and online learning resources at

<http://www.lethbridgecollege.net/elearningcafe>

Accessibility Services

Students requiring academic accommodation (e.g. extra time, separate space, etc.) must register with Accessibility Services to determine eligibility for and implementation of these supports. If you have further questions, please feel free to speak to your instructor or contact Accessibility Services for more information.

Assessments:

Assessment	Percentage	Tentative Date(s)
Exams	2x15%=30%	Oct. 6, Dec. 3
Written Assignments	2x20%=40%	Oct. 15, Nov. 26
Final Exam	30%	To be scheduled during Final Exam week (Dec. 8-12)

Evaluation will be based upon the following criteria:

- **Exams** worth 30% of the final mark. These exams will cover all assigned readings and lecture material presented for the component of the course being assessed. Each exam will consist of objective questions of various types: multiple choice, matching, true or false. Students may only write the exams during this assigned time so tardiness is not in the students' self-interest.

- **Written Assignments** worth 40% of the final mark. More information will be given for the written assignment near the due date. Service Learning Option (SLO) can be substituted for **one** written assignment, making up 20% of the course. Contact Marda Schindeler (403-320-3202 ext.5390, marda.schindeler@lethbridgecollege.ca) for details and placement. Furthermore, please contact the instructor for further instructions.
- **Final Exam** worth 30% of the final grade. This cumulative examination will cover all the areas studied over the course of the semester. It is scheduled to take place during the scheduled Final Exam period. Do not plan trips for the Final Exam period.

Grading:

Official final grades will be available on Web Advisor. Grades posted in Angel should be considered interim grades.

Grading System:

Letter Grade	Percentage	G.P.A.	Definition
A+	95 – 100	4.0	Excellent
A	90 – 94	4.0	Excellent
A-	86 – 89	3.7	Excellent
B+	80 – 85	3.3	Good
B	76 – 79	3.0	Good
B-	70 – 75	2.7	Good
C+	67 – 69	2.3	Satisfactory
C	63 – 66	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	60 – 62	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55 – 59	1.3	Minimal Pass
D	50 – 54	1.0	Minimal Pass
F	0 – 49	0.0	Failure

Program/Course Attendance Requirements:

General Course Expectations:

Learning is a participatory exercise. It requires the active engagement of both the instructor and the students. The instructor's responsibilities in learning require him/her to adapt his/her teaching styles to best suit the needs of the class. In addition, the instructor is responsible for treating each student with respect and in a professional manner. The students' responsibilities in the learning process are to ask relevant questions, listen to the lectures, read the material, routinely check Angel for any changes in the schedule, hand in assignments on the required due date and to promptly inform the instructor if the material has not been understood. In addition, each student is responsible for treating fellow students and the instructor with respect and in a professional manner. Both the instructor's and the students' rights/responsibilities are clearly outlined in the Lethbridge College's *Academic Calendar*.

Evaluations are a way in which I can determine the students' understanding of the course material. Your grades are usually a reflection of how much you commit to attending class, listening to the lectures, studying the course material, reading the textbook and asking for clarification when needed. If you happen to perform the aforementioned activities then you should find this course to be both interesting and rewarding.

In order to accurately determine each student's level of understanding, I expect all students to be able to clearly express themselves in English. If you feel that you are unable to do so, then I highly recommend that you contact Learning Support Services.

Institutional Practices

Course Work Used as Examples:

Should your instructor wish to use your work in future educational purposes, you will be asked to complete and sign a Student Release Form, authorizing both the instructor and/or the College to use your course work. This form, along with a copy of your work, is retained in the official copyright files located in the College's Intellectual Property Office. If you have any questions regarding Copyright and/or Intellectual Property, please contact the Intellectual Property Office.

Retention of Assignments and Exams:

Examinations / assignments NOT intended to be returned to students will be retained for at least one year from the end of the term. Examinations / assignments intended to be returned to students but are not picked up by students will be retained to the end of the final grade appeal period. After the appropriate retention period, records will be destroyed in a secure manner.

Academic Honesty:

Academic Honesty is necessary for students to achieve excellence and for the preservation of the integrity and reputation of the course, the program and of Lethbridge College as an institution. Lethbridge College supports and demands academic honesty in all academic learning activities.

Plagiarism is a serious offence and will be handled in accordance with Lethbridge College policy. The penalties for plagiarism vary in degrees but may result in expulsion from the Lethbridge College.

Lethbridge College uses plagiarism detection software such as Turnitin.com. Students should be aware that if their paper is submitted to a plagiarism detection service, a copy of their paper is retained as a source document in its reference database. As the author, the student retains ownership of the paper submitted.

Recording of Classes:

An audio recording is permitted only with the prior written consent of the instructor or if recording is part of an approved accommodation plan. Such a recording is for the personal use only of the student who has permission to record. Following the course all such recordings must be destroyed.

HUM 1155: Ethics
Tentative Schedule (Fall 2014-C04)

Contact Info: brad.wolcott@lethbridgecollege.ca

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00-3:30/Thursdays 9:00-11:00/Friday 9:00-11:00

Day	Topic	Assignment	Date
1	Introduction		Sept. 3
2	Ethics and Ethical Reasoning	Read Chapter 1	Sept. 8
3	Divine Command Theory	Read Chapter 2	Sept. 10
4	Ethical Relativism/Egoism/ Contractarianism	Read Chapters 3 & 4	Sept. 15
5	Utilitarianism	Read Chapter 5	Sept. 17
6	Kant	Read Chapters 6	Sept. 22
7	Morality and Human Nature	Read Chapter 7	Sept. 24
8	Morality and Human Nature	Read Chapter 7	Sept. 29
9	Virtue Ethics/Ethics of Care	Read Chapters 8 & 9	Oct. 1
10	Exam #1	Study Notes and Chapters 1-9	Oct. 6
11	Euthanasia	Chapter 10	Oct. 8
12	Euthanasia	Chapter 10 Written Assignment #1	Oct. 15
13	Abortion	Chapter 11	Oct. 20
14	Abortion	Chapter 11	Oct. 22
15	Biotechnology and Bioengineering	Chapter 18	Oct. 27
16	Biotechnology and Bioengineering	Chapter 18	Oct. 29
17	Sexual Morality	Chapter 12	Nov. 3
18	Equality and Discrimination	Chapter 13	Nov. 5
19	Punishment and Death Penalty	Chapter 15	Nov. 10
20	Punishment and Death Penalty	Chapter 15	Nov. 12
21	Environmental Ethics	Chapter 16	Nov. 17
22	Animal Ethics	Chapter 17	Nov. 19
23	Violence and War	Chapter 19	Nov. 24
24	Economic Justice/Global Justice and Globalization	Chapter 14 & 20 Written Assignment #2	Nov. 26
25	Review		Dec. 1
26	Exam #2	Study Notes and Chapters 10-20	Dec. 3
Final Examination (25%) – To Be Scheduled During Final Exam Week (Dec. 8-12)			