

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY

COURSE INFORMATION

DISCIPLINE/DEPARTMENT: Philosophy & Politics **IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** _____

Revised: _____

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>PHIL 312</u> | <u>Occupational Ethics</u> | <u>3</u> |
| SUBJECT/NUMBER OF COURSE | DESCRIPTIVE TITLE | UCFV CREDITS |

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Whether you are an employee, an employer, or an entrepreneur, you will face difficult ethical decisions in your working life. Every stage of employment, from choosing your career to deciding to retire, raises ethical issues. Every working relationship raises questions about your role and responsibilities, whether you are the boss or the customer, the professional or the student, the caregiver or the client. How should you choose a career? What rights should you have as a boss or as a subordinate? What information is private, what should be kept confidential and what information must be shared? How will you determine and balance your loyalties, your priorities, and your responsibilities? When and why should you go the extra mile for a client, a colleague, or a boss? When should your job take second place to your personal life? This course will examine a variety of ethical issues in employment and show you how to apply ethical theories to situations you will face.

RATIONALE:

COURSE PREREQUISITES: 45 credits from Applied or Arts or Science programs, including one of Philosophy 110, 210, 230, Political Science 120 or 270

COURSE CO-REQUISITES: None

| | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| HOURS PER TERM FOR EACH STUDENT | Lecture | 15 | hrs | Student Directed | |
| | Laboratory | 30 | hrs | Learning | hrs |
| | Seminar | | hrs | Other - specify: | |
| | Field Experience | | hrs | | hrs |
| | | | | TOTAL | 45 |

MAXIMUM ENROLMENT: 28

Is transfer credit requested? **9** Yes **:** No

AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:

Course Designer(s): Moira Gutteridge **Chairperson:** E. Davis
Curriculum Committee

Department Head: Jeffrey Morgan **Dean:** J.D. Tunstall

PAC: Approval in Principle _____ **PAC: Final Approval:** March 25, 1998
(Date) **(Date)**

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SYNONYMOUS COURSES:

(a) replaces _____ N/A _____
(course #)

(b) cannot take _____ N/A _____ for further credit
(course #)

SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS (List reading resources elsewhere)

Sample text:

Robert A. Larmer, *Ethics in the Workplace: selected readings in business ethics* (West Publishing Co., St. Paul, Minn., 1996)

This is a text by a Canadian author, which includes an introduction to different moral theories and a selection of readings on ethical issues in labour negotiations, privacy, sexual harassment, safety, whistle-blowing, intellectual property, marketing ethics, professional ethics, corporate responsibility, affirmative action, business and the family, business and the international community, and business and the environment.

Any single text would be supplemented by additional readings to cover issues in occupations outside the corporate sphere.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To engage students in careful examination of arguments on common ethical issues that arise in the workplace.
2. To develop students' ability to use ethical theories and reasoning effectively in responding to problems they may face in their working lives.

METHODS:

The course will use a combination of seminar discussions, lectures, interviews or visiting speakers, group projects, and case studies to introduce and analyse a selection of issues in occupational ethics. Students will research real examples of ethical dilemmas and will see how to apply moral theories to understand the different positions that are taken on these issues. The emphasis will be on rigorous and careful examination of the justification for each position.

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STUDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE:

Evaluation procedures will vary, but students are always evaluated on a variety of performances that may include essays, contributions to class, presentation of papers, group projects, examinations, and journals. A typical distribution of work would assign 10% to class contribution, 30% to informal assignments, projects, and in-class work, 30% to examinations or major projects, and 30% to essays.

COURSE CONTENT

Review of major ethical theories.

Choosing a career - philosophical and ethical considerations.

Roles, responsibilities and rights in working relationships - what it means to be an employer, an employee, an entrepreneur, a client, a customer, a patient, or a student.

Integrating work with private and public life - the ethical issues involved in balancing obligations to work, family, self, and community.

A representative sampling from the following three major areas of occupational ethical issues:

Ethical issues within the workplace - confidentiality, privacy, whistle-blowing, harassment, research ethics, rights to intellectual property, etc.

Ethical issues in employment - right to work, hiring policies and procedures, compensation, fair evaluation and discipline, relocation, termination and retirement

Ethical issues in business practices - pollution, down-sizing, overseas factories

RESOURCES:

Supplementary readings or library holdings will provide detail on ethical issues in specific professions and contexts, for example:

D.N. Bersoff, *Ethical Conflicts in Psychology* (1995)

R.H. Stein, *Ethical Issues in Counselling* (1990)

K.W. Bowyer, *Ethics and Computing: Living Responsibly in a Computerized World* (1995)

M.T. Lunati, *Ethical Issues in Economics: From Altruism to Co-operation* (1997)

S.J. Hall, *Ethics in Hospitality Management: A Book of Readings* (1992)

D.H. Long, *Doing the Right Thing: A Real Estate Practitioner's Guide to Ethical Decision Making* (1995)

E.J. Delattre, *Character and Cops: Ethics in Policing* (1994)

D. Gordon et al., *Controversies in Media Ethics* (1996)

G. Elfstrom, *Moral Issues and Multinational Corporations* (1991)

A.A. Marcus, *Business and Society: Ethics, Government, and the World Economy* (1995)