



ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

January 1998

REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

January 2016

COURSE TO BE REVIEWED: (six years after UEC  
approval)

May 2021

Course outline form version: 09/15/14

## OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: PHIL 412	Number of Credits: 3 <a href="#">Course credit policy (105)</a>																
<b>Course Full Title:</b> Corporations, Globalization, and Ethics																	
<b>Course Short Title (if title exceeds 30 characters):</b>																	
Faculty: Faculty of Humanities	Department (or program if no department): Philosophy																
<b>Calendar Description:</b>  This course examines the roles of corporations within society and the impacts of their actions on various stakeholders, including indigenous populations. What limitations, if any, can rightly be imposed on these organizations? What are the rights and duties of employees?																	
 Note: Students with credit for PHIL 312 cannot take this course for further credit.																	
Prerequisites (or NONE):	45 university-level credits including one of the following: PHIL 110, PHIL 210, PHIL 230, POSC 120, or POSC 270.																
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None																
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None																
<b>Equivalent Courses (cannot be taken for additional credit)</b>  Former course code/number: <b>PHIL 312</b> Cross-listed with: Equivalent course(s): <i>Note: Equivalent course(s) should be included in the calendar description by way of a note that students with credit for the equivalent course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.</i>	<b>Transfer Credit</b> Transfer credit already exists: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  Transfer credit requested (OReg to submit to BCCAT): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No (if yes, fill in transfer credit form)  Resubmit revised outline for articulation: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  To find out how this course transfers, see <a href="#">bctransferguide.ca</a> .																
<b>Total Hours: 45</b> <b>Typical structure of instructional hours:</b> <table border="1"><tr><td>Lecture hours</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Seminars/tutorials/workshops</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>Laboratory hours</td><td>30</td></tr><tr><td>Field experience hours</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Experiential (practicum, internship, etc.)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Online learning activities</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Other contact hours:</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>45</b></td></tr></table>	Lecture hours		Seminars/tutorials/workshops	15	Laboratory hours	30	Field experience hours		Experiential (practicum, internship, etc.)		Online learning activities		Other contact hours:		<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>Special Topics</b> Will the course be offered with different topics? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  If yes, different lettered courses may be taken for credit: <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, repeat(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, no limit  <i>Note: The specific topic will be recorded when offered.</i>
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Other contact hours:																	
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>																
<b>Department / Program Head or Director:</b> Anastasia Anderson	<b>Date approved:</b> October 2, 2014																
<b>Faculty Council approval</b>	<b>Date approved:</b> February 2015																
<b>Campus-Wide Consultation (CWC)</b>	<b>Date of posting:</b> May 15, 2015																
<b>Dean/Associate VP:</b>	<b>Date approved:</b> February 2015																
<b>Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval</b>	<b>Date of meeting:</b> May 22, 2015																

**Learning Outcomes**

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

1. Critically reflect on arguments concerning common ethical and political issues that arise in the workplace.
2. Apply this critical analysis in responding effectively to problems they may face in their working lives.
3. Discuss examples of the various impacts, positive and negative, of corporate activity.
4. Write a critical essay that analyzes and evaluates a philosophical issue from a variety of theoretical perspectives.
5. Situate issues in relation to the impacts of corporate ideology for indigenous populations (e.g., property rights, resource entitlements, etc.)

**Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)**

Yes       No, PLAR cannot be awarded for this course because

**Typical Instructional Methods (guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.; may vary at department's discretion)**

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.

**Grading system:** Letter Grades:  Credit/No Credit:  Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: Yes  No

**NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.**

**Typical Text(s) and Resource Materials (if more space is required, download Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form)**

Author (surname, initials)	Title (article, book, journal, etc.)	Current ed.	Publisher	Year
1. Shari Collins-Chobanian	<i>Ethical Challenges to Business As Usual.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pearson Prentice-Hall	2005
2. Paul Hawken, Amory Lovins, L. Hunter Lovins	<i>Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Little, Brown & Co.	1999
3. Paul Hawken	<i>The Ecology of Commerce: A Declaration of Sustainability</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harper Collins	1993
4. Chris Turner	<i>The Geography of Hope: A Tour of the World We Need</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vintage Canada	2008
5. Dan Ariely	<i>Predictably Irrational: The Hidden Forces that Shape Our Decisions</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harper Perennial	2008

**Required Additional Supplies and Materials (software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)**

None

**Typical Evaluation Methods and Weighting**

Final exam:	25%	Assignments:	Midterm exam:	%	Practicum:	%
Quizzes/tests:	15%	Lab work:	Field experience:	%	Shop work:	%
Essays:	20%	Participation:	Case study:	30%	Total:	100%

**Details (if necessary):****Typical Course Content and Topics**

1. The philosophical foundations of modern capitalism, including John Locke's theory of private property, Adam Smith's theory of the free market, Utilitarianism and Marx's theory of alienation among others.
2. The nature of corporations.
3. The distinction between the public and private sectors and their interaction in contemporary society.
4. Various ethical issues arising out of the competing interests of various stakeholder groups, including autonomy, consumer protection, environmental degradation, downsizing, hiring policies and procedures.

Sample syllabus for a typical term:

- Week 1** Introduction: overview of the course and its requirements
- Week 2** Text CH.1: A theoretical grounding in ethics and economics (pp.1-11 & 19-42). Utilitarianism, and Duty Theory.
- Week 3** Text CH.1: Continued (pp.46-82). Adam Smith and the Laissez-faire market, and Locke's theory of private property. Text CH. 2: Human rights, global development and challenges to the environment (pp.85-141).
- Week 4** Text CH. 2: Human rights, development and challenges to the environment (pp.142-190). First pair of Case Studies due.
- Week 5** Text CH. 3: Corporate Responsibility in a global context (pp.201-268).
- Week 6** Text CH.4: Property rights and the just distribution of goods (pp.271-309).
- Week 7** Mid-term test: CH's 1 – 4. Essay topics distributed.
- Week 8** Text CH.5: Discrimination in the workplace (pp.311-362).
- Week 9** Text CH.6: Business and the environment (pp.367-408). Second pair of Case Studies due.
- Week 10** Text CH.7: Cost-benefit analysis and human rights: an inevitable tension? (pp.411-484).
- Week 11** Text CH.8: consumption and the good life (pp.487-540). Essay due.
- Week 12** Text CH.9: Economies for life (pp.573-580).
- Week 13** Tying up loose ends and concluding remarks.