



AMBROSE

PH 230 Philosophy of Law Winter 2011

Time: Wednesday & Friday 2:30 – 3:45
Location: Room A2141

Instructor Information:
Kenneth M. Nickel (MAR, MSc, PhD ABD)
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Course Description

The course will be an introduction to the philosophy of law with particular attention to jurisprudence—the area of philosophy of law that seeks to classify the concept of law in relation to other action-guiding and sanction-imposing systems, most notably morality. The course will also examine the philosophical foundations of various streams of law including, criminal law, tort law, property law, and constitutional law.

Course Objectives

1. Students should learn the classic and contemporary perspectives on the core issues of natural law theory, legal positivism, and legal realism.
2. Students should become conversant with some of the land mark judicial rulings and philosophical analyses that shape our thinking about topics including, but not limited to, freedom of expression, same sex marriage, equality, minority rights, religious freedom, judicial review, etc.
3. Students should appreciate the rich and complex relationship that exists between metaphysics, epistemology, moral philosophy, political philosophy, and both the practice and the philosophy of law.

Textbook and Other Course Readings

Dyzenhaus, D., Moreau, S. R., & Ripstein, A. (Eds.). (2007). *Law and Morality: Readings in Legal Philosophy* (3rd ed.). Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press.

- Other readings will be provided in class or sent to student e-mails as pdf attachments or internet links.

Course Requirements

- 1. Attendance and Participation** 10%
 - Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. Students are expected to attend each class session **with assigned text material and an engaged frame of mind**. Students should be prepared to contribute meaningful conversation to the topics under discussion. **Each absence from class merits an immediate .5% deduction** and class participation is assessed on the balance. For example, if a student misses two classes and generally participates excellently in class he or she generally cannot achieve more than 9/10 for this portion of his or her grade. **Students in class without text material and otherwise engaged in non-class activities are simply in the same room and may be assessed as absent.** Students who miss no more than two lectures with demonstrably good reasons (e.g., athletic participation) will have their participation assessed on the basis of 10/10.
 - Students who arrive late to class or leave early may be marked as absent. As a general rule **two late arrivals or early departures** will amount to one absence.
- 2. Midterm Examination** 20%
 - February 16th
- 3. Research Paper** 30%
 - Due: Monday, April 11th @ 4:00 PM
 - A separate handout regarding topics, format guidelines, and late policy will be sent to student e-mails and/or be posted on Moodle.
- 4. Final Exam** 40%
 - Monday, April 18th @ 9:00 AM in 2100
 - **Students must pass the final exam** to ensure a passing grade in the course. A student who performs well during the term but fails the final exam may fail the course.
 - Students should refrain from scheduling flights or travel of any sort that will conflict with the Final Examination schedule. Final

examinations will not be rescheduled to accommodate travel arrangements

Grading: The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
A+	4.0		90-100 %
A	4.0	Exceptional	85-89 %
A-	3.7		80-84 %
B+	3.3		77-79 %
B	3.0	Exceeds Expectations	73-76 %
B-	2.7		70-72 %
C+	2.3		67-69 %
C	2.0	Meets Expectations	63-66 %
C-	1.7		60-62 %
D+	1.3		55-59 %
D	1.0	Minimal Pass	50-54 %
F	0.0	Failure	49 < %

Important Dates

- Last day to enter a course without permission and to withdraw from course and receive tuition refund is January 21st.
- Last day to withdraw from courses or change to audit without academic penalty is March 18th.
- Last day to request revised time for a final examination is April 4th.

Important Notes

- Students are responsible to check their Ambrose e-mail account regularly. E-mail may be used to notify students of cancelled classes or other important details relating to the course.
- Use of cell phones, recording devices, head phones, and all other **non-essential technology** is **prohibited**. **Text messaging** during class is **absolutely prohibited**.
- **Lap top computers are prohibited** from general use during class. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis for students with relevant disabilities. Lap tops used for purposes unrelated to taking lecture notes are prohibited.
- Students are expected to respect the learning environment of the classroom. Make every attempt to be on time and to remain seated until the class session ends. Keep unnecessary conversations to a minimum as they are distracting to both the instructor and fellow classmates.
- *Ambrose is committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with*

these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

- *Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.*
- *Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension." Alternative times for final examinations cannot be scheduled without prior approval. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline. Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."*
- *Students are advised to retain a copy of this syllabus for their records.*