



AMBROSE

**PH 230 Philosophy of Law  
Winter 2009**

Time: Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 – 2:15  
Location: Room 2141

Instructor Information:  
***Kenneth M. Nickel (MAR, MSc, PhD Cand)***  
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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 complex relationship that exists between metaphysics, 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. Midterm Examination** 20%
  - February 12<sup>th</sup>
- 2. Research Paper** 30%
  - Due: Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 PM
  - A separate handout regarding topics, format guidelines, and late policy will be sent to student e-mails.
- 5. Final Exam** 50%
  - Date: April 16<sup>th</sup> @ 1:00 – 4:00 in 2210
  - 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 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Last day to withdraw from courses or change to audit without academic penalty is March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Last day to request revised time for a final examination is April 6<sup>th</sup>.

## Important Notes

- **Students are responsible to check their Ambrose e-mail account regularly. E-mail will be used to notify students of cancelled classes or other important details relating to the course.**
- **Cell phones, recording devices, head phones, and all other technology that is not essential for class (by the instructor's criteria) are prohibited. Cell phones must be turned off during class time.**
- **Lap top computers, when not used exclusively for taking class notes, are often a distraction to classmates and even the individual user. Their use is discouraged.**
- **Lap tops used for purposes unrelated to taking lecture notes are prohibited. Violators will be asked to leave the class. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Deans Office.**
- **Students are expected to respect the learning environment of the classroom. Make every attempt to be on time. Keep unnecessary conversations and comments to a minimum as they are distracting to both the instructor and fellow classmates. As well, they are often deleterious to a student's performance in the class.**
- *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](mailto: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 this syllabus for their records.*