

REPORT OF ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Report #F2009–2; December 2009

In this report Academic Standards Committee (ASC) brings to Senate its evaluation and recommendation on a proposal by G. Raymond Chang School of Continuing Education to offer a new interdisciplinary *Certificate in Ethics*.

Further documentation on the item addressed in this and all other ASC reports is available for review through the Secretary of Senate.

Certificate in Ethics

The importance of theoretical and practical knowledge in ethics for both private and public life is increasingly recognized by individuals, organizations and the public in general. Much like critical thinking, problem solving, numeracy and technical literacy, *literacy in ethics* has become a professional skill and qualification required to deal with complex issues. The proposed *Certificate in Ethics* has been designed to impart ethical awareness, theoretical and applied ethical knowledge, and skills in moral and ethical reasoning. The *Certificate* pursues these objectives through an interdisciplinary curriculum.

Admission Requirements: Prospective registrants are required to have an OSSD with six Grade 12 U or M credits with a minimum grade of 60 per cent, or equivalent. Mature students with relevant work experience will also be considered for registration in the *Certificate* program.

It is expected that many prospective registrants would have an undergraduate degree or post-secondary diploma/certificate with several years of professional experience in a relevant field

Curriculum: The curriculum comprises both theoretical and practical knowledge; it focuses on case studies and decision making models. Together, these components provide an important skill set and knowledge base, and equip students with the resources and competencies needed to effectively address ethical issues.

The proposed *Certificate* program will consist of a total of six courses including: (i) two core courses, (ii) three elective courses grouped in six streams: *Environment, Health, Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Law, Media and Culture, and Organizations and Professions*, and (iii) a required capstone course. The proposed curriculum structure also includes a *Non-Stream* option to allow students explore ethical awareness themes based on their individual interests.

- **Core Course I:** All students will be required to choose one of eleven Philosophy courses. This course will ensure that students acquire the fundamentals of ethical theory and moral reasoning, conceptual resources and skills.

Environment Stream:

CPHL 500 Philosophy of the Natural Environment

Health Stream:

CPHL 302 Ethics in Health Care
 CPHL 444 Ethics in Health Services Management
 CPHL 507 Ethics and Disability
 CPHL 509 Bioethics

Human Rights and Administrative Justice Stream:

CPHL 400 Human Rights and Justice

Law Stream:

CPHL 449 Issues in Philosophy of Punishment
 CPHL 612 Philosophy of Law

Media and Culture Stream:

CPHL 530 Media Ethics

Organizations and Professions Stream:

CPHL 307 Business Ethics
 CPHL 444 Ethics in Health Services Management
 CPHL 449 Issues in Philosophy of Punishment
 CPHL 530 Media Ethics

Students in any stream or in the Non-Stream option can take PHL 503 Moral Philosophy I as Core Course I.

- **Core Course II:** CPHL xxx Ethics in Professional Life. This is a new course designed to serve as a professionally-related course for students enrolled in degree programs offered by Faculty of Arts. Core Course II explores and examines how organizations and professions institutionalize values, influence beliefs and attitudes, and guide conduct through prescriptions for professional practices.
- **Electives:** Students will be required to choose three electives from among 37 different courses. The list below shows the clustering of electives under each stream. This list will guide students and provide direction in their selection of elective courses. There will be a Non-Stream option, for students who wish to remain uncommitted to a stream. Students in the Non-Stream option will be able to freely select their elective courses under the guidance of the Certificate Coordinator.

Environment Stream

- CECN 502 Economics of Natural Resources
- CECN 510 Environmental Economics
- CHST 562 Science, Corporations and the Environment
- CPHL 500 Philosophy of the Natural Environment
- CPSY 518 Environmental Psychology

Health Stream:

- CPHL 302 Ethics in Health Care
- CPHL 444 Ethics in Health Services Management
- CPHL 507 Ethics and Disability
- CPHL 509 Bioethics
- CPSY 124 Social Psychology
- CPSY 706 Models of Personal Growth

Human Rights and Administrative Justice Stream:

- CHST 301 Human Rights and the Canadian State
- CHST 721 African American Experience
- CINT 905 Conflict Resolution and Negotiation
- CPHL 400 Human Rights and Justice
- CPHL 507 Ethics and Disability
- CPOG 315 Issues in Equity and Human Rights
- CPOG 424 Human Rights and Global Politics
- CPPA 629 Administrative Law
- CSOC 609 Women and Human Rights
- CSOC 705 Law and Justice

Law Stream

- CCRM 322 Ethics in Criminal Justice
- CECN 321 Introduction to Law and Economics
- CENG 520 Language of Persuasion
- CODG 130 Legal and Ethical Issues in Using GIS and Digital Data
- CPHL 449 Issues in Philosophy of Punishment
- CPHL 507 Ethics and Disability
- CPHL 612 Philosophy and Law
- CPHL 921 Philosophy of Intellectual Property
- CPPA 629 Administrative Law
- CSOC 705 Law and Justice

Media and Culture Stream

- CENG 413 Colonial and Postcolonial Literatures
- CENG 520 Language of Persuasion
- CENG 621 Reading Gender in a Global Context
- CENG xxx The History of Rhetoric
- CHST 602 A History of Propaganda
- CPHL 401 Philosophy of Mass Culture

CPHL 530 Media Ethics
CPHL 603 Moral Philosophy II
CPHL 621 Beyond the Western Tradition

Organizations and Professions Stream:

CCRM 322 Ethics in Criminal Justice
CINT 905 Conflict Resolution and Negotiation
CODG 130 Legal and Ethical Issues in Using GIS and Digital Data
CPHL 307 Business Ethics
CPHL 400 Human Rights and Justice
CPHL 444 Ethics in Health Services Management
CPHL 449 Issues in Philosophy of Punishment
CPHL 530 Media Ethics
CPOG 315 Equity and Human Rights
CPPA 629 Administrative Law
CSOC 705 Law and Justice

Students in any stream or in the Non-Stream option can take PHL 503 Moral Philosophy I as an elective.

- **Capstone Course:** COPH xxx Certificate in Ethics Capstone Course. The Capstone Course is the culminating course designed to bring together ethical theories (Core Course I), the practice in formulating and addressing ethical questions (elective courses), and the practice in applying decision making models, and handling case studies (Core Course II). Students will be encouraged to examine a case or issue from their own professional perspectives or from a perspective pertinent to the industry sector, organizational context or occupational niche in which they work or are aiming to work.

ASC Evaluation

The proposed *Certificate in Ethics* has been designed to deliver fundamental knowledge in ethical theory, moral reasoning and critical thinking while allowing students to gain experience in applied ethics. The *Certificate* program successfully combines a diverse set of courses into an interdisciplinary yet coherent curriculum structure. This impressive range of courses clearly demonstrates Ryerson's strength in applied ethics, a topic of increasing relevance and importance.

ASC is highly supportive of the proposed *Certificate*. During its deliberations, ASC formulated two recommendations that are aimed to enrich curriculum offerings at Ryerson and strengthen the proposed *Certificate* program.

- **Potential for an interdisciplinary Minor in Ethics:** Given the topical significance and the fact that the program is largely based on existing courses, there is the potential to offer a new interdisciplinary *Minor in Ethics*. Such a new *Minor* can be of

interest to a wide range of students enrolled in Ryerson degree programs. *ASC encourages the Department of Philosophy and Music* (which has academic and administrative responsibility for the proposed *Certificate* program) *to consider offering a Minor in Ethics based on the Certificate program.*

- **A new stream in Corporate Social Responsibility:** In its proposed inaugural format, the *Certificate* program groups elective courses into six streams. While these streams all address important social issues, a new stream with a business focus can significantly enrich the program and strengthen the interdisciplinary character of the *Certificate*. Such a stream can examine corporate social responsibility from various perspectives. *ASC recommends that the Department of Philosophy and Music initiate discussions with other academic units to formulate a new stream in Corporate Social Responsibility. A proposal with the revised curriculum structure should be submitted to ASC by Fall 2010.*

Recommendation

Having satisfied itself of the merit of this proposal, ASC recommends:

That Senate approve the Certificate in Ethics.

Respectfully submitted by

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for the 2009/2010 Academic Standards Committee

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